COMIC-CON PREVIEW 2016

SPECIAL DOUBLE ISSUE

Entertainment Weekly

WARNING: THIS COVER IS *NOT* A POKÉSTOP!

Your First Look at STEPHEN KING'S

The DARK TOWER

The epic saga of six-guns and sorcery finally hits the big screen

By ANTHONY BREZNICAN

July 22/29, 2016 • #1423/1424

Idris Elba and Matthew McConaughey

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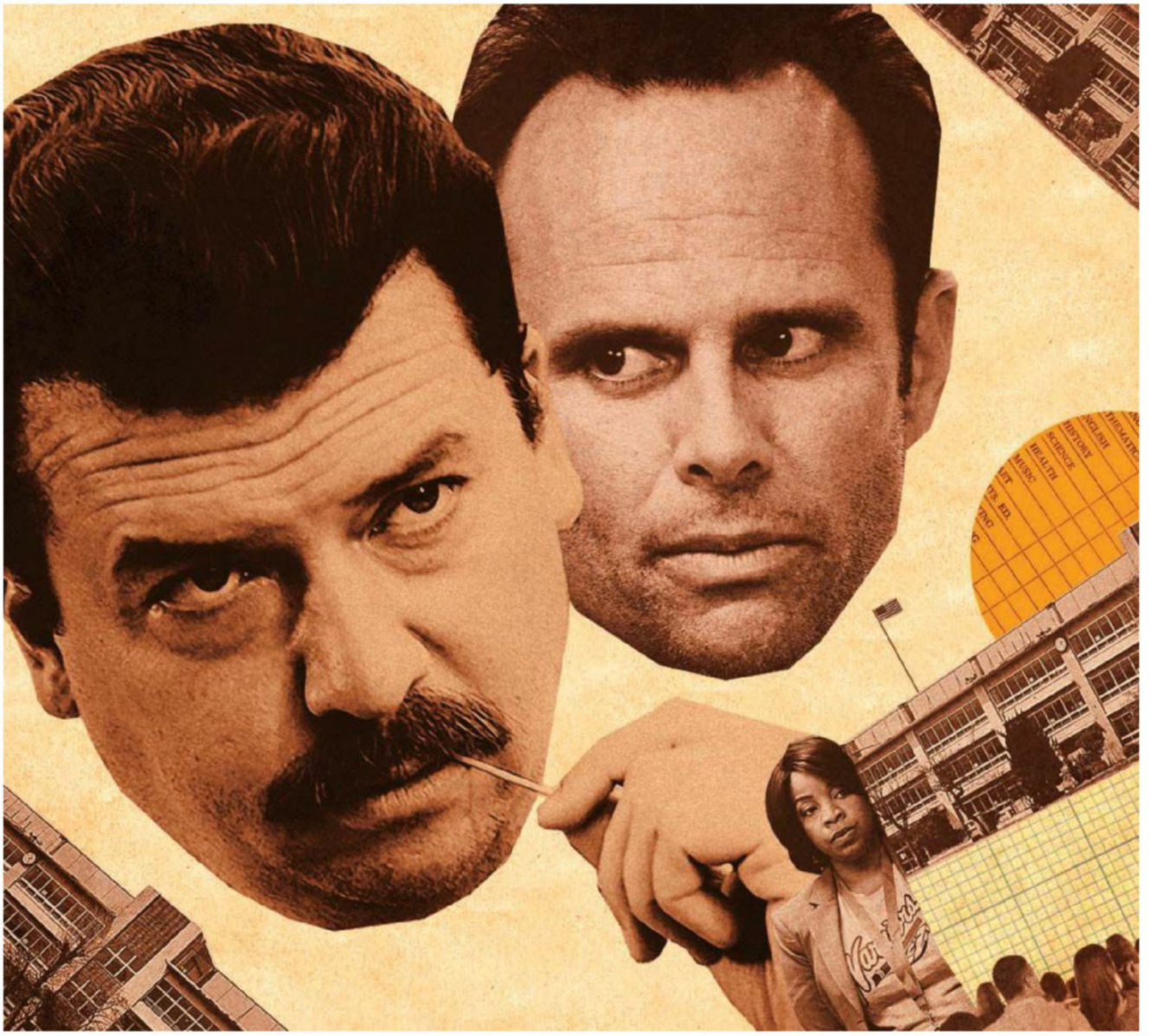
THE **TOP 10** THINGS WE LOVE THIS WEEK

The Must List

▼ Danny McBride, Walton Goggins, and Kimberly Hébert Gregory



VICE PRINCIPALS: FRED NORRIS/HBO (3); BACKGROUND: GETTY IMAGES (5)

1

TV

VICE PRINCIPALS

• Academia has never been so down and dirty. North Jackson High's potty-mouthed vice principals (Danny McBride and Walton Goggins) will stop at nothing to overthrow their new leader (Kimberly Hébert Gregory). *(Debuts July 17, 10:30 p.m., HBO)*

ILLUSTRATION BY **LINCOLN AGNEW**

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2

MUSIC

"WHERE ARE YOU NOW?" Lady Leshurr feat. Wiley

• The viral British rap sensation isn't joking around on her new single, which goes for the jugular as she silences haters and rivals over a brassy beat.

3

MOVIES

THE INFILTRATOR

• Still missing Walter White? Bryan Cranston returns to the drug trade in an entertaining thriller, but this time he breaks bad as an undercover federal agent trying to take down Pablo Escobar. *(R)*

4

BOOKS

THIS MUST BE THE PLACE, by Maggie O'Farrell

• O'Farrell's captivating novel explores the decades-long relationship between a man and his former-film-star wife. Secrets, shock, and scandal abound as they search for their Hollywood ending.

5

MUSIC

"A GOOD HEART," Elton John

• Elton may have never met a sequin he didn't like, but even he knows when the music and the message are strong enough to stand on their own. His new music video is a strikingly simple celebration of love's many forms: old, new, familial, friendly, gay, straight.

LADY LESHURR: JOSEPH OKPAKO/WIREIMAGE; *THE INFILTRATOR*: LIAM DANIEL

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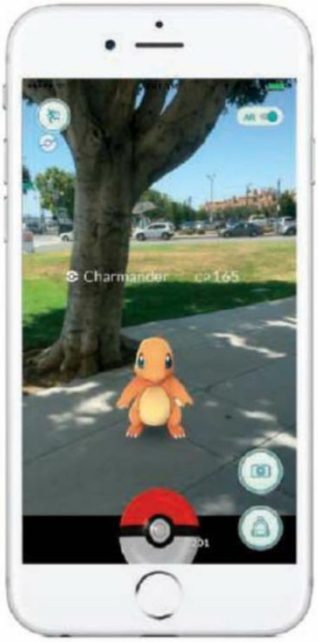

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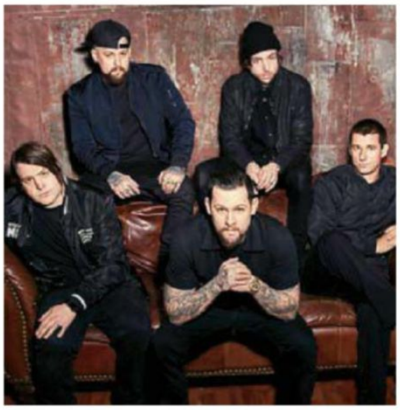

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TV

BOJACK HORSEMAN

• In season 3 of Netflix's heartbreakingly existential, laugh-a-second showbiz satire, faded '90s sitcom star BoJack (Will Arnett) starts his second act with Oscar buzz. Brutal cynicism, devastating poignance, and animal puns ensue. *(Premieres July 22, Netflix)*

7

GAMES

POKÉMON GO

• Fulfill your childhood dream of being the very best like no one ever was by catching 'em all with this addictive iPhone and Android app that scatters Pokémon across real-world locations for you to find and evolve. Now, where's Pikachu?

8

PODCASTS

THE SHIPPING ROOM

• If you've ever become irrationally obsessed with a fictional relationship, then this is a must-listen. Tamar Barbash and Christine Laskodi pay homage to your favorite TV couples, from sitcoms to Sorkin and everything in between. *(iTunes)*

9

BOOKS

THE HATCHING, by Ezekiel Boone

• If you need another reason to be afraid of spiders, Boone's gripping novel features the horrifying menace of a dormant ancient evil—one with suspiciously arachnid traits. Think *Jurassic Park* but with bugs.

10

MUSIC

YOUTH AUTHORITY, Good Charlotte

• This Warped Tour staple's brand of anthemic pop punk is alive and well with their first album in six years, a catchy collection of characteristically soaring tracks that hark back to the band's early days.

BOJACK HORSEMAN: NETFLIX; *POKÉMON GO*: THE POKÉMON COMPANY INTERNATIONAL

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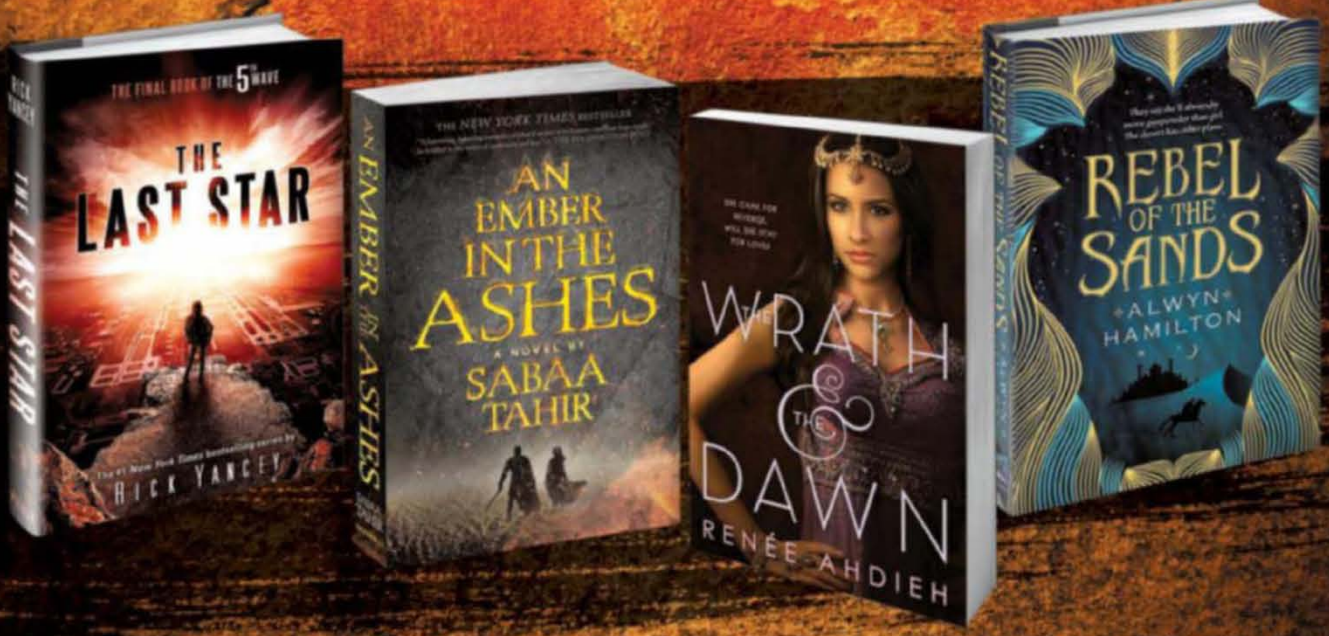

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MORE ADVENTURES AWAIT.
SummerReadingGuide.com/DangerousReads

THE WEEK'S BEST

Sound Bites

TWEET OF THE WEEK
I've never seen anyone as ready for fame as Chewbacca Mom.
@rgay
(Roxane Gay)

"As always, our fan mail comes in the form of YouTube comments—the most cogent written argument for never learning how to read."
—John Oliver in a *Last Week Tonight* web exclusive

"They look like really beautiful ciabatta... if only that's what we were making."
—Tamal Ray, observing his freshly baked biscotti, on *The Great British Baking Show*

"Well, I prefer the word[s] 'one of the greatest athletes of all time.'"
—Serena Williams, responding to a reporter who said she'd go down as one of the greatest female athletes of all time after her Wimbledon win

"I swear to God, if I go to synagogue and I don't make a showbiz connection, I'm going to f---ing kill myself with a chain saw."
—Julie (Julie Klausner)

"Even if I could go back through the stones, it's not my place. My destiny lies on Culloden Moor. But I'll find you. Promise."
—Jamie (Sam Heughan), to Claire (Caitriona Balfe), on *Outlander*

"Oh, please, then you'd have to go to Home Depot."
—Billy (Billy Eichner) on *Difficult People*

"There is no crisis so relevant that it can't wait 10 minutes."
—Shelli (Carla Gugino), on balancing phone sex with work, on *Roadies*

GAY: FREDERICK M. BROWN/GETTY IMAGES; WILLIAMS: JUSTIN TALLIS/AFP/GETTY IMAGES; OLIVER, RAY: ERIC LIEBOWITZ/HBO (2); HEUGHAN: SONY; KLAUSNER, EICHNER: ALI GOLDSTEIN/HULU (2); GUGINO: KATIE YU/SHOWTIME

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Comic-Con Preview 2016
The Con is back! From July 21 to 24, San Diego becomes the epicenter of entertainment. Here's a sneak peek at the stars, movies, TV shows, and more that should be on your pop culture radar.

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EW at Comic-Con

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The Dark Tower
After a decade of tantalizing rumors, Stephen King's *The Dark Tower* finally roars to life, with Idris Elba as the Gunslinger and Matthew McConaughey as his nemesis, the Man in Black. We're on the South Africa set at the dawn of a sinister new film saga.
BY ANTHONY BRENZICAN

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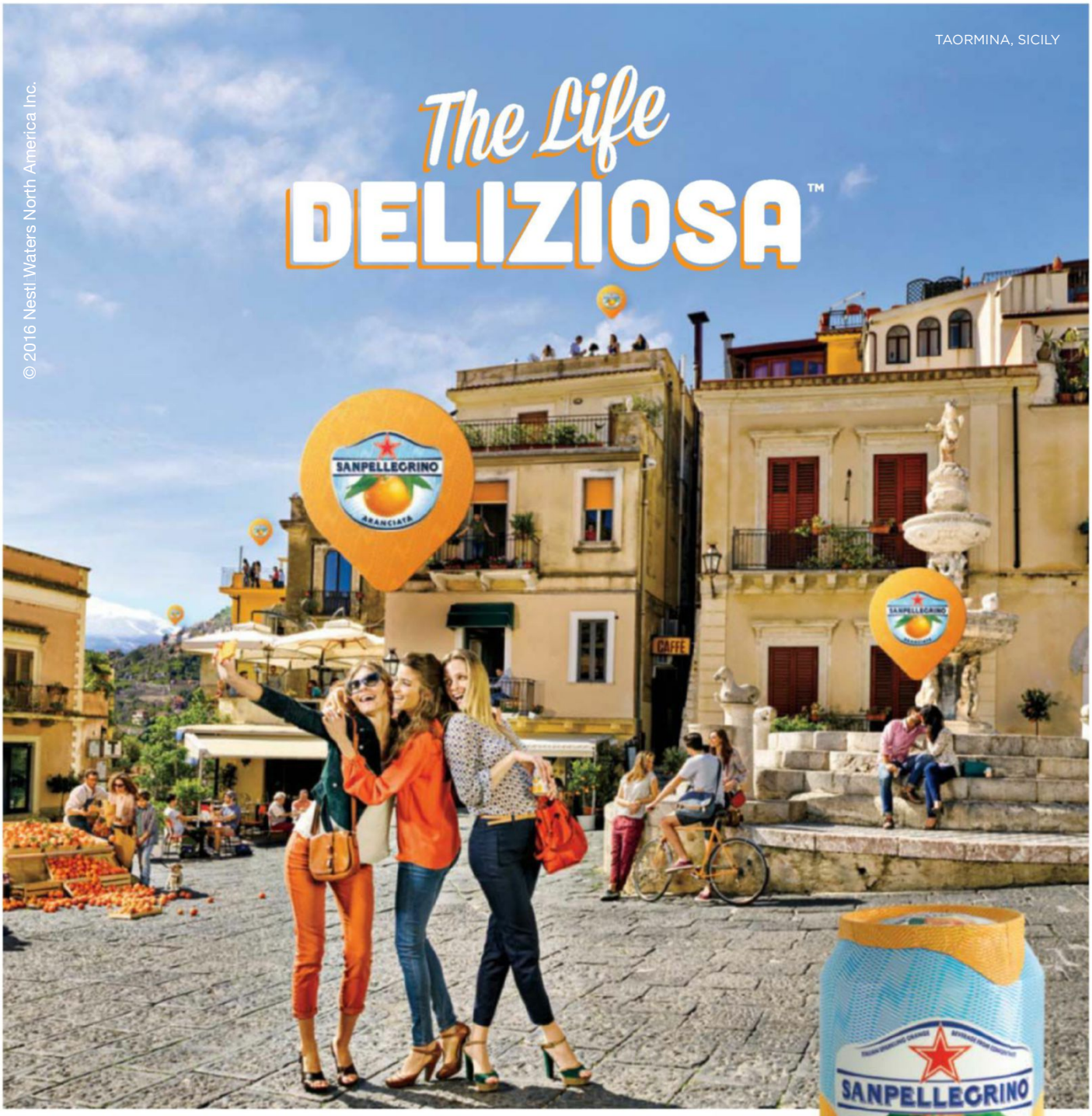
Charlie Hunnam holds court in next year's *King Arthur: Legend of the Sword*. For more exclusive looks at upcoming movies, see page 46.

ON THE COVER
The Dark Tower's Idris Elba and Matthew McConaughey photographed exclusively for EW by Marco Grob on June 18, 2016, in Cape Town, South Africa

PHOTOGRAPH BY **MARC HOM**



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The *Entertainment Weekly* Must List

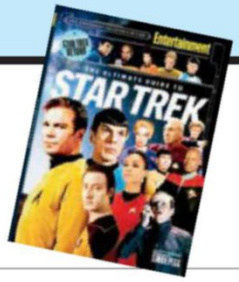
Attention, Trekkies, Potterheads, and general lovers of all things pop culture! Here's what's happening in the world of EW to take your fandom to new heights. **BY RUTH KINANE** @ruthiekinane

1

Attend EW POPFEST: the ultimate pop culture event

• We coaxed James Corden from behind the wheel and Jodie Foster out of the director's chair for EW's first big festival Oct. 29–30 in Los Angeles. We're bringing our brand to life for everything from panel discussions, screenings, reunions, and more. Tickets and schedule information can be found at *ewpopfest.com*.

2



Buy the ULTIMATE GUIDE TO STAR TREK special issue

• Resistance is futile. To celebrate the 50th anniversary of the cult TV and movie classic, pick up our 96-page collector's-edition bookazine, which includes a foreword from Scotty himself, *Star Trek Beyond* star (and co-writer) Simon Pegg.

3

Like our new FACEBOOK FAN pages

• Are you a Potterhead who's convinced Harry and Hermione were meant to be? Check out EW's Ultimate Fan Facebook pages for distinctive communities surrounding all your favorite franchises. Log in today and form a support group.

4

Tune in to our CELEBRITY TV RECAPS

• Don't miss *Another Period*'s Natasha Leggero and Riki Lindhome, as well as the cast and crew of *Casual*, break down their comedies on EW.com. And coming up, *Power*'s Lela Loren and the creators of the new thriller *Stranger Things* will share behind-the-scenes intel on their shows.

5

Vote for our FALL TV COVER stars

• Move over, Olympics. This summer's huge competitive event is our bracket game, which lets you have a say in who will grace our Fall TV Preview subscriber issue. Is Lorelai's tongue sharper than Oliver's arrow? Does Cookie rule this empire, too? Cast your vote at *ew.com/coverbattle*.

FOSTER: EUROPA PRESS VIA GETTY IMAGES; CORDEN: MONTY BRINTON/CBS/GETTY IMAGES; DANIEL RADCLIFFE: PETER MOUNTAIN; *ANOTHER PERIOD*: COMEDY CENTRAL; *ARROW*: KATIE YU/THE CW; *EMPIRE*: CHUCK HODES/FOX; *GILMORE GIRLS*: SAEED ADYANI/NETFLIX

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STAFF PICKS

It's Comic-Con Time! Who's Your **Favorite Superhero**— And Why?

LISA SIMPSON BRIEL
Captain America
My favorite is Captain America because my 4-year-old son, Fletcher, loves him and his shield. (And it's nice to look at Chris Evans!)

AMY WILKINSON
Jessica Jones
As a kid, I wanted to be a private eye. As an adult, I basically wear the same pair of jeans every day. So no other superhero speaks to my interests quite like Ms. Jones.

JOEY NOLFI
Batgirl
Because playing her gave Alicia Silverstone a job in 1997, and the only way to rid the world of evil is with more Alicia Silverstone movies.

AARON MORALES
Spider-Man
I've always loved his heart, humor, and flexibility, but when Marvel introduced a Spidey of black Hispanic descent named Miles Morales who has an Uncle Aaron...it was like they had finally read my fanfic!

RICHARD MALTZ
The Flash
I could really use the super-speed so I could be in two places at once. Besides, red is my favorite color.

ROMEO CIFELLI
Batman
He's just a normal guy who turns his tragedy into a heroic obsession/passion. Plus, the car and all the gadgets!

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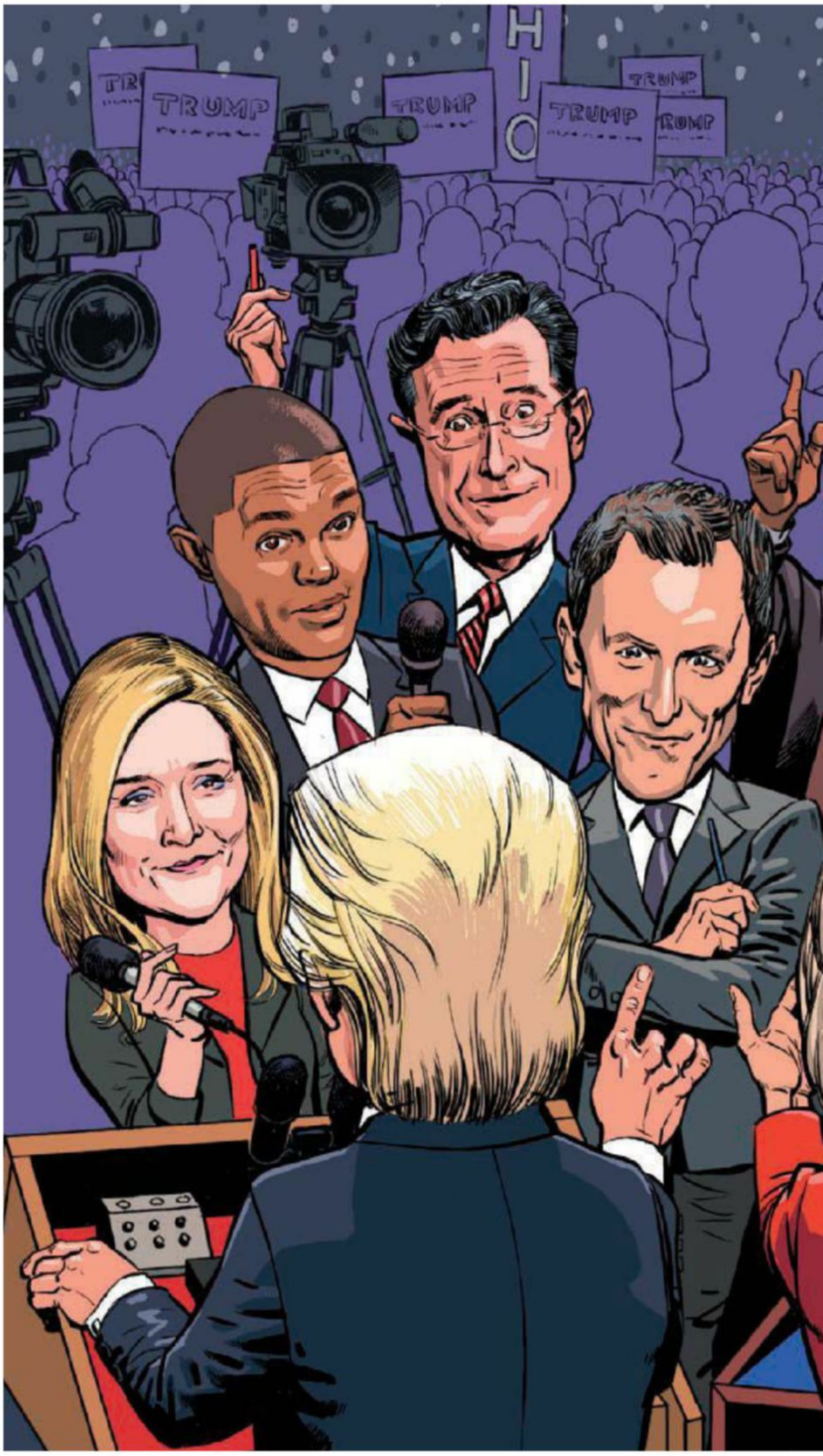
News+Notes

Late-Night's Conventional Wisdom

For the Republican and Democratic national conventions, shows are taking unprecedented steps to capitalize on the burning curiosity (and potential flameouts).

By Ray Rahman



THE SPLASHIEST, MOST DRAMATIC cultural event of the summer might not involve a superhero, a bingeworthy murder mystery, or Adele singing her lungs out in a stadium. Instead, it looks like that title could very well go to the Republican and Democratic national conventions—the coronations for the parties' presumptive presidential nominees, Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton. And thanks to the unpredictable nature of the campaigns so far (and the blockbuster ratings they have already garnered), the late-night world is scrambling to secure a front-row seat to the political fireworks.

In a way, the conventions serve as an exclamation point to the all-caps sentence that's been this bonkers political season. "Everyone is going to be watching," says *Late Night* host Seth Meyers. "Particularly on the

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THE TWITTER BRAIN TRUST

Who to follow for funny, snarky, and actually insightful commentary.

BY CHANCELLOR AGARD

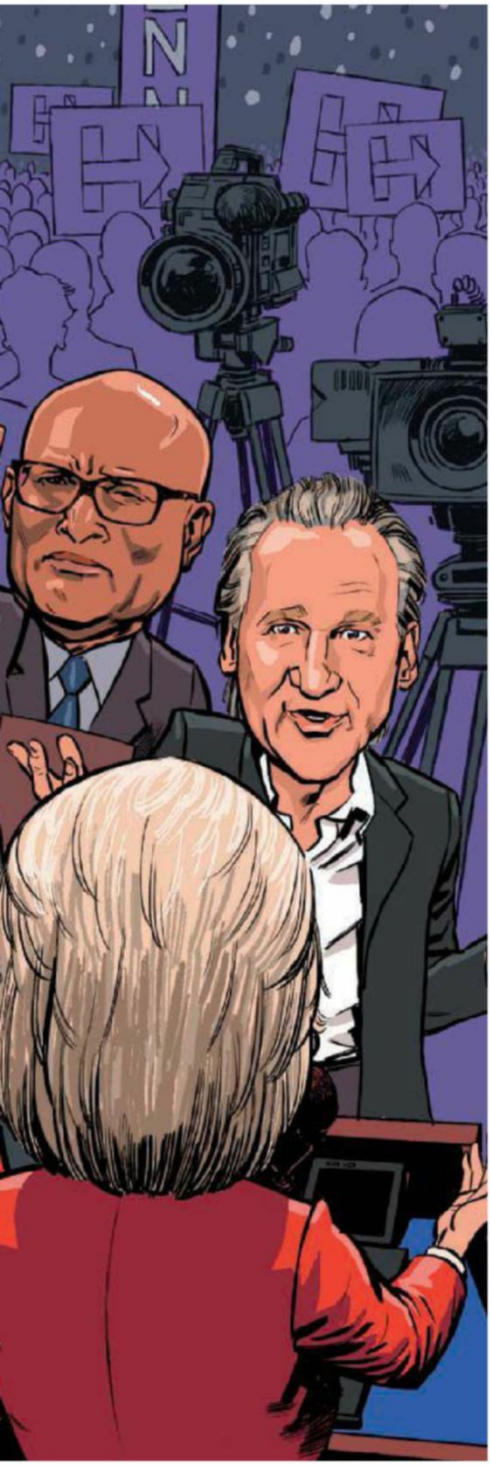
Michael Ian Black
@michaelianblack
The comedian isn't afraid to turn his ire on Trump. He even wrote a zany kids' book about the candidate.

Patton Oswalt
@pattonoswalt
He hilariously mixed whiskey and tweets during the primary debates—fingers crossed he does it again.

Kal Penn
@kalpenn
Get a political insider's perspective from the *Harold & Kumar* star and former Obama staffer.

Sarah Silverman
@SarahKSilverman
She's an avowed Sanders supporter who offers a mix of jokes and serious consideration of the issues.

Jennifer Weiner
@jenniferweiner
The best-selling novelist comments on the race with the same wit she brings to live-tweeting *The Bachelorette*.



BLACK: NICHOLAS HUNT/GETTY IMAGES FOR 2016 NANTUCKET FILM FESTIVAL; SILVERMAN: DAVID LIVINGSTON/GETTY IMAGES; WEINER: TAYLOR HILL/FILMMAGIC; OSWALT: ALBERTO E. RODRIGUEZ/GETTY IMAGES; PENN: BRAD BARKET/GETTY IMAGES

last night when the nominee speaks." No one knows what will go down, but everyone is certain something *major* will. "It's very rare that you kind of know in advance the days that there'll be big news," says Meyers. "But with this one, it seems like every meteorologist is pointing to a storm on the map, saying, 'This is about to happen.' I'm not surprised that so many shows are taking steps to be as close to it or as timely as possible."

From live broadcasts and extra episodes to on-site tapings, hosts are all cementing their plans (see sidebar, page 16) for the sure-to-be-unorthodox RNC (July 18–21 in Cleveland) and the hopefully-also-interesting DNC (July 25–28 in Philadelphia; portions of both conventions can be watched on cable-news and broadcast networks). The reason for all this heightened attention is simple: The conventions could get crazy. Like, historically crazy. "This is a unique election cycle on just about every level," says *Late Show* executive producer Chris Licht. Longtime *Daily Show* EP Steve Bodow agrees: "I've been at every one since 2004. Clearly this year, and on the Republican side especially, it's just going to be mayhem." Jo Miller, exec producer for *Full Frontal With Samantha Bee*, describes the upcoming events with a mixture of anticipation and dread. "For all of us who were too young to attend the 1968 Democratic Convention in Chicago"—an event marked by tumultuous (and televised) clashes between protesters and police—"we might get to see what that was like, for better or for worse, I fear.... Anything can happen on the streets."

Real Time With Bill Maher executive producer/writer Scott Carter feels the same way. "We've never seen a year like this," he says. "[Bill's] always been a political junkie, but this year he's a political junkie times two." That goes for the country at large, too: The debates on both sides earned record numbers for the networks that carried them. To wit, the March 3 GOP debate on Fox News drew nearly 17 million viewers. In contrast, the 2012 Republican debates reportedly peaked at 7.1 million viewers.

"It's not hard to be more watched than a normal [RNC], which is a Ken doll in a suit and an old man talking to a chair," Miller says, referring to Mitt Romney's 2012 convention, where Clint Eastwood spoke to an imaginary President Obama. "This will definitely be more watched than any of that.

> "THERE'S NEVER BEEN A WILD CARD AT THIS LEVEL IN AMERICAN POLITICS IN ANY OF OUR LIFETIMES."
>
> —STEVE BODOW, *THE DAILY SHOW*

In a way, it's like watching NASCAR and hoping that something blows up. There's something morbid about it." Perhaps more so than in any other year, presidential politics is just as much entertainment as it is news—which means potentially big ratings for anyone smart enough to get in on the action.

Bodow recalls late-night's lightbulb moment. "It started a year ago with 'Oh my God, how many people watched that Republican debate?'" he says. "'What have we stumbled into here?' The country is deeply interested in what's going on, and it ought to be, because it's really consequential—and also really entertaining."

Carter points to *Real Time*'s huge numbers this year—"up about 400,000 viewers per week," he says—as just the tip of the iceberg. "I cannot imagine what the audience level is going to be for these [special episodes]."

Of course, not all conventions are created equal. This year's RNC will likely attract far more attention than its Democratic counterpart thanks to a certain creatively coiffed candidate. For the past year, Donald Trump's mere presence has been enough of an enticement to lure extra eyeballs, as Donald Trump himself will be the first to tell you. The teleprompter-hating, script-eschewing, gaffe-prone businessman (and former reality TV star) is more or less a gift sent to TV producers from the ratings gods.

As for each show's specific approach for capitalizing on all the potential chaos, their only strategy is to not have a strategy. No one is prepared to make any hard predictions, and for good reason. "I've grown wary of describing my expectations to anyone about this election," Meyers says. "I've been on a real cold streak as far as picking out these things, so I much prefer just sitting back and commenting on it as it happens."

Bodow is on the same page. "I think we've all learned that having expectations for anything in the Republican Party this year is a losing proposition," he notes with a laugh. But he adds that *The Daily Show* will pay special attention to the fact that Trump has had trouble getting fellow Republicans to speak at the convention. "What if you had a political party and no one came?" Bodow asks.

Larry Wilmore, who jokes that he'll have to cover the RNC from New York because Comedy Central won't pay to fly him out, wishes the uncertain GOP slate could be drawn out even longer. "I want two weeks of Republican conventions!" he says. "I think the network would be so happy with that. Trump is your headliner. With a headliner like that...nobody's going to complain."

Since so many late-night shows will be swarming the same two events, the key players are bound to run into each other. And as Miller points out, a lot of them are already well acquainted—*Full Frontal*, *The Daily Show*, and Colbert's *Late Show* can all trace their roots back to the same Jon Stewart-curated cabal of writers and performers. So amid all the competition to land the best Trump and Clinton zingers, some camaraderie—and drinks—may be in order. "We'll probably be hanging out together at a bar," says Miller. "And it'll probably be a really gross bar." And with all the commotion anticipated in Cleveland, Miller kids that some might not even make it to Philadelphia. "I think by that point we may all have just collapsed into the Cuyahoga River."

How to Join the Political Party

Rev up your DVR: The late-night landscape is altering to mine the most out of the conventions, and we've got all their plans. **BY RAY RAHMAN**

THE DAILY SHOW WITH TREVOR NOAH
Comedy Central, 11 p.m.

The South African-born host will head to his first-ever U.S. convention with a slate of episodes taped in Cleveland (airing July 19–22) and Philadelphia (July 26–29).

THE LATE SHOW WITH STEPHEN COLBERT
CBS, 11:35 p.m.

After years of zinging politics on basic cable, Colbert will take his new(ish) network show live each week—first for July 18–21, then July 25–28.

THE NIGHTLY SHOW WITH LARRY WILMORE
Comedy Central, 11:31 p.m.

Wilmore will be covering the conventions, but he won't be taping there. "It's lazy to go to the conventions, as far as I'm concerned," says Wilmore. "It's real comedy to do it remotely."

FULL FRONTAL WITH SAMANTHA BEE
TBS, 10:30 p.m.

In addition to her usual Monday episodes, which will include special field segments and taped bits from the conventions, Bee will host a bonus episode on Wednesday, July 20, at 10:30 p.m.

LATE NIGHT WITH SETH MEYERS
NBC, 12:35 a.m.

For the first time in the *Late Night* franchise's history, the show will air a special live episode on Thursday, July 21—the scheduled night of Trump's big speech.

REAL TIME WITH BILL MAHER
HBO, 10 p.m.

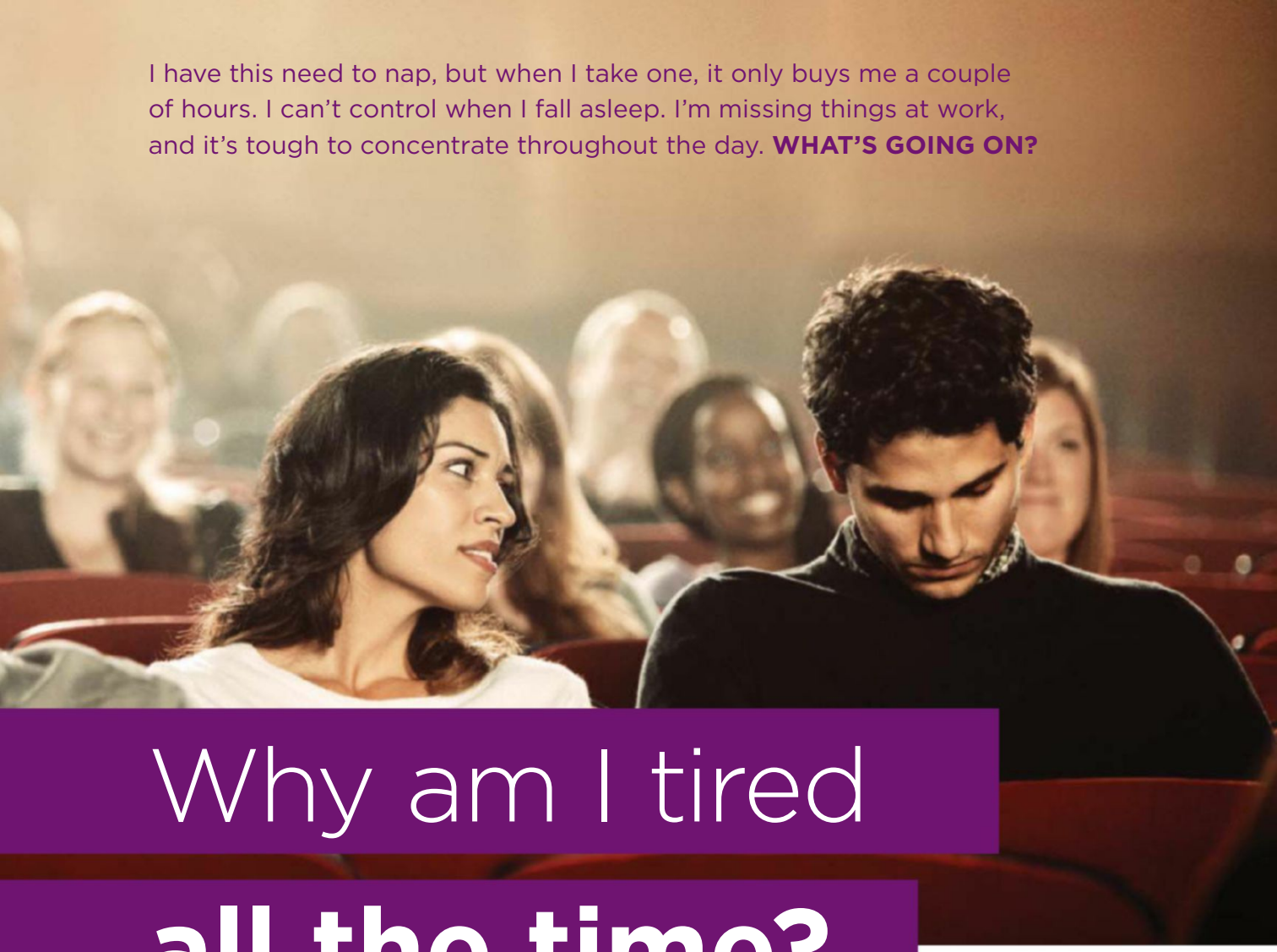
Maher and his political panel will still go live as usual every Friday, but the show will also add live post-convention eps that will begin whenever the RNC (July 20–21) and DNC (July 27–28) coverage ends each evening.

CONAN
TBS, 11 p.m.

Ol' Coco O'Brien will also be covering a convention, albeit one with less pomp and circumstance: He'll be taping a week of shows at San Diego's Comic-Con July 20–24.

NOAH, MAHER: GAVIN BOND (2); COLBERT: JEFFREY R. STAAB/CBS; WILMORE: PETER YANG/COMEDY CENTRAL; BEE: PETER YANG; MEYERS: LLOYD BISHOP/NBC; O'BRIEN: JASON LAVERS/FILMMAGIC

I have this need to nap, but when I take one, it only buys me a couple of hours. I can't control when I fall asleep. I'm missing things at work, and it's tough to concentrate throughout the day. **WHAT'S GOING ON?**



Why am I tired **all the time?**

If you experience any of these symptoms:

- Feeling tired all the time (excessive daytime sleepiness)
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- Poor quality sleep (sleep disruption)
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It could be narcolepsy.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
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STRIKING A CHORD

As the nation reels from the shooting deaths of Philando Castile and Alton Sterling, top artists are releasing impassioned protest tracks.

BY JOEY NOLFI

"SPIRITUAL," JAY Z
LISTEN ON TIDAL

Jay Z unearthed a rousing, previously unreleased track highlighting the struggle of young black men. Referencing the 2014 death of Michael Brown, Jay Z raps "Just a boy from the hood/Got my hands in the air/In despair don't shoot" over a heavy beat.

"BLACK MAYBE," SOLANGE
LISTEN ON INSTAGRAM

Lending her voice to the sonic uprising against police brutality, Solange shared a moving a cappella cover of "Black Maybe," originally penned by Stevie Wonder for Syreeta's 1972 debut album.

"HOW MANY," MIGUEL
LISTEN ON SOUNDCLOUD

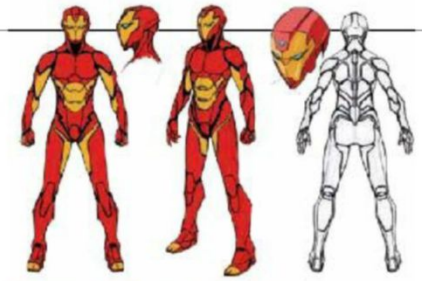
Miguel captures the spirit of the Black Lives Matter movement with the release of his morose demo "How Many." The R&B singer mournfully admits he's "tired of human lives turned into hashtags and prayer hands."

"SAD NEWS," SWIZZ BEATZ
LISTEN ON SOUNDCLOUD

Known for producing uptempo pop tracks for artists like Beyoncé, Swizz Beatz scales it back on the piano-tinged, Scarface-assisted "Sad News," which references several instances of black men falling victim to gun violence.

"BETTER DAYS," VICTORIA MONÉT FEAT. ARIANA GRANDE
LISTEN ON SOUNDCLOUD

Molding heartache into harmony, Monét and Grande duet for solidarity against racism and injustice and set their sights on a brighter future as they croon this breezy R&B earworm.



MEET THE NEW IRON (WO)MAN

Step aside, Tony Stark. On July 6, Marvel Comics revealed that teenage scientist Riri Williams will soon be suiting up as Iron Man. So just who is this superhero upstart? BY DEVAN COGGAN

What's Riri's story?
Introduced a few months ago as part of an *Invincible Iron Man* subplot, Williams is a 15-year-old black girl who built a flying suit of armor in her MIT dorm room. (Yeah, she's a certified genius.) She'll soon be taking over for Stark full-time as the lead of the *Invincible Iron Man* comic series.

So what happens to Stark?
Comics writer Brian Michael Bendis recently told *Time* that the billionaire playboy philanthropist will hang up his suit at the end of the *Civil War II* story line, although Marvel is keeping his exact fate under wraps. Stark has endured a lot of challenges lately, ranging from financial troubles to the recent death of his best friend, James Rhodes (a.k.a. War Machine).

Will Riri still call herself Iron Man?
We don't know yet. Bendis said that she's still zeroing in on the perfect superhero name.

Is Marvel making it its mission to increase diversity?
Riri joins a spate of diverse characters who've emerged in Marvel's biggest hero roles. In recent years, we've met Jane Foster as a female Thor, Kamala Khan as the Muslim character Ms. Marvel, and Miles Morales as a black–Puerto Rican Spider-Man. "There was a part of an audience crawling through the desert looking for an oasis when it came to representation," Bendis told *Time*. But some fans still aren't happy and have criticized Marvel for not hiring enough female writers of color.

Are movies in Riri's future?
It hasn't been announced whether she will ever join the Marvel Cinematic Universe, but Robert Downey Jr. isn't going out to pasture anytime soon—he'll next don the red suit in 2017's *Spider-Man: Homecoming*. Still, RDJ gave his new protégée a stamp of approval, tweeting, "Get ready for a new generation of Marvel BAMF..."

Riri Williams; (above) a prototype of her redesigned suit

JAY Z: MICHAEL BEZJIAN/WIREIMAGE.COM; SOLANGE: DAVID M. BENETT/GETTY IMAGES FOR MICHAEL KORS; MIGUEL: JB LACROIX/WIREIMAGE.COM; BEATZ: PATRICK MCMULLAN/GETTY IMAGES; MONÉT: ARAYA DIAZ/WIREIMAGE.COM; GRANDE: FRAZER HARRISON/BBMA2016/GETTY IMAGES FOR DCP; *INVINCIBLE IRON MAN*: © MARVEL COMICS (2)

POLL

THE NIGHT OF: IS NAZ GUILTY?

On HBO's new Sunday sensation, Naz (Riz Ahmed) gets arrested for the murder of a mysterious young woman. Is the Bambi-faced college student as innocent as he looks? Or, with a blood-stained knife hidden in his jacket, as guilty as he looks? It's a question we posed to EW.com readers, about three-quarters of whom said they think he's an innocent man wrongly accused. We won't know for sure, though, until the Aug. 28 finale, which means we'll be sweating this case all summer long.
—JOE McGOVERN

Riz Ahmed

FIRST LOOK

Josh Groban and Denée Benton

Josh Groban's Broadway Bow

Grobanites, rejoice! The singer, wooed for years by stage producers, finally treads the boards in *Natasha, Pierre & the Great Comet of 1812*, opening Nov. 14. BY MARC SNETIKER

Nineteenth-century Russian high society is going multi-platinum. Singer Josh Groban will finally make his Broadway debut this fall in *Natasha, Pierre & the Great Comet of 1812*, an original musical that trims Leo Tolstoy's mammoth *War and Peace* into a scandalous little slice (focusing on Natasha's affair and Pierre's quest for existential answers), set to an electropop-opera score. Groban, who learned to play the accordion for the show, has fielded offers for years to hit the stage but chose *Great Comet* for the chance to put his stamp on a new character. "I didn't want to jump into anything as a stunt-cast kind of thing—I wanted to do it the right way," he says. "I'm coming from a weird world into this. There are going to be fans who come and, when I first walk on stage, will say, 'Well, that's Josh.' It's going to be my job to make sure that by the end of my first song, they're thinking, 'Oh, that's Pierre.'" Groban's inquisitive hero will match wits with naive ingenue Natasha, played by Denée Benton, who grabbed attention this summer in a standout turn on Lifetime's *UnREAL*—and whose role as a Russian aristocrat felt like an unreal development of its own. "Being a black woman and having the opportunity to be the girl in the corset in the beautiful lighting, desired by all these people—growing up, I didn't have very many roles to look at like it was possible," says Benton. "I hope little girls now will learn Natasha songs and dream just as big."

THE NIGHT OF: CRAIG BLANKENHORN/HBO; GROBAN AND BENTON: JASON BELL

POKÉMON GO:
INSIDE THE CATCH-'EM-ALL CRAZE

EW checks in with the team behind the app that has everyone glued (for better or for worse) to their smartphone screens. BY SHIRLEY LI

Like Ash's loyal Pikachu, the Pokémon franchise can't be contained. Since Pokémon GO, *the augmented reality game that lets players capture Pokémon in "real" life, burst into the mobile world on July 6, "Trainers" have been scouring their hometowns trying to gather critters while pausing at designated "PokéStops" to collect items and meet fellow fans. EW chatted up the crew from Niantic and the Pokémon Company to find out how the game came about—and whether there really is a way to be the very best like no one ever was.*

***Pokémon GO* became the most popular free download in iTunes' App Store almost instantly. What was the inspiration for the game?**

ELVIN GEE, *Pokémon marketing manager* It began with Google's April Fool's 2014 Pokémon Challenge [which had users "catching" Pokémon on Google Maps]. At the time, Google shared the same building as the Pokémon Company in Japan, and [Niantic founder] John Hanke got in touch with [Pokémon Company CEO] Tsunekazu Ishihara, and they found they had a mutual interest in the game. The platform for the first [augmented reality] game Niantic did, *Ingress*, had potential for other uses.

ARCHIT BHARGAVA, *Niantic product marketing manager* *Ingress* was all about exploration and discovery, and the *Pokémon* videogame has you exploring and discovering. We just put two and two together and thought, "Wow, if you could do this in real life, that'd be pretty awesome."

In the game, players train and battle at Gyms and try to catch as many Pokémon as possible. Is there a way to win *Pokémon GO*?

BHARGAVA There's no endgame yet. Obviously, we're curious to see who can catch the most Pokémon, but it's so early, the community can go anywhere.

GEE We wanted to start with the basics, but we never wanted to replicate the Game Boy experience.... This is also our 20-year celebration, so it's been interesting to see how the fans of the original series and also new fans enjoy it.

It's available only in the U.S., Australia, and New Zealand now, so aside from rolling this out to other countries, what features are you hoping to add?

BHARGAVA One thing we're excited about is the device [in development] that you can clip on your shirt or bag or wrist that will vibrate or beep or flash a light when a Pokémon is nearby. You won't have to be looking at your phone all the time.... We definitely know that trading [Pokémon] will exist in the game, but we're still thinking about the optimal way to do it.

***Pokémon GO* has made headlines for some troubling reasons: People have been robbed at PokéStops! What are you doing to help prevent more of these Poké-related crimes?**

BHARGAVA The app reminds people to be aware of their surroundings when it's loading, but we're trying to do what we can to find other ways in the app to do so. One of our goals is, when people are at PokéStops, we want to get them to look up, to admire what's around them.

What reactions have surprised you the most so far?

GEE I've heard from different groups of people about how they're seeing players go outside and talk to each other while playing the game, and they're all saying it's the first time they've seen something like this happen. For me, that's the wildest thing to hear.

BHARGAVA The comments on Reddit have been amazing. People have been supportive [of each other], and that, to me, is really cool. And I'm following everything on Twitter. I saw that the Dallas Mavericks are playing the game.

GEE Yeah, we've had some really great celebrity engagement!

I hope you saw that John Mayer Instagrammed about purchasing 14,500 PokéCoins.

BHARGAVA I didn't!

GEE Oh, that's definitely a win.

BULBASAUR: NINTENDO; PIDGEOTTO: @NICKMASTODON; RATTATA: @PHOTOEDITORJOE; PHONE: THE POKÉMON COMPANY INTERNATIONAL; POKÉMON: NINTENDO

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Scoring the Looks You Loved

By Isabella Biedenharn

WE FIND IT FOR YOU
Dying to buy something or re-create a look you spotted on TV or in a movie? Email **stylehunter@ew.com** and visit EW.com to see what we've found.

PRETTY LITTLE LIARS

Where can I get the floral top Aria (Lucy Hale) wore on *Pretty Little Liars*? —TRICIA

When the Freeform hit jumped ahead five years, the Liars' fashion needed to graduate from high school to career-ready—which meant Aria's penchant for goth touches and pink hair had to go. "I love this [Sandro] top because it's so trendy," says costume designer Cameron Dale. "It was a little *Brady Bunch*, but definitely a modern take, with the deep V and the white grommets. Aria still keeps her funky nature...but, you know, no skulls in the publishing office!"

SANDRO EKIN FLORAL-PRINT TOP	
bloomingdales.com	$250

2016 BET AWARDS

I love the earrings Alicia Keys wore to the BET Awards. Where can I find them? —KIANA

Keys brought serious shine to the red carpet in a glittering turban and glamorous spiked Maxior hoops. "They aren't typical, around-the-way earrings," says Keys' stylist John Moore. "I thought they were beautiful." The accessory represents a subtle nod to the singer's Big Apple birthplace. "I wanted to go back to her roots," says Moore. "Casual but still cool and funky." Snag the style with these Tory Burch hoops, which are subtle enough for the workplace and fun for the weekend, too.

TORY BURCH CABOCHON HOOP EARRINGS	
nordstrom.com	$175

GAME OF THRONES

The jewelry Daenerys (Emilia Clarke) has been wearing this season is amazing. Where can I find her bracelet from the finale? —WHITNEY

Dany debuted some stunning sculptural pieces during season 6, and thanks to MEY Designs, a new jewelry collaboration between *GOT* costume designer Michele Clapton and brand Yunus & Eliza, replicas of Dany's treasures are now available for purchase. "Her jewelry isn't just pretty," Clapton says. "It's always saying something about her attitude." Pair this dragon hand wrap with a crisp T-shirt or a simple dress to make a strong statement.

MEY DESIGNS DAENERYS DRAGON STORM HAND WRAP	
mey.london	$650

KEYS: JASON LAVERIS/FILMMAGIC; CLARKE: HBO

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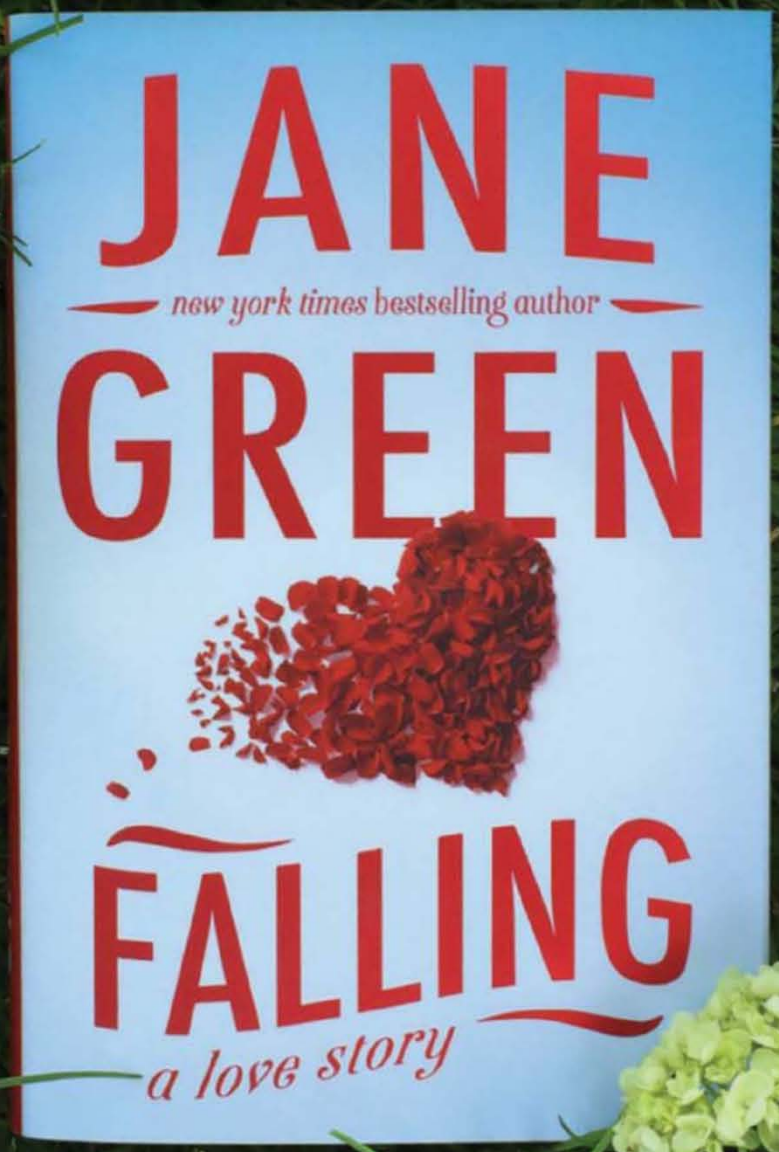

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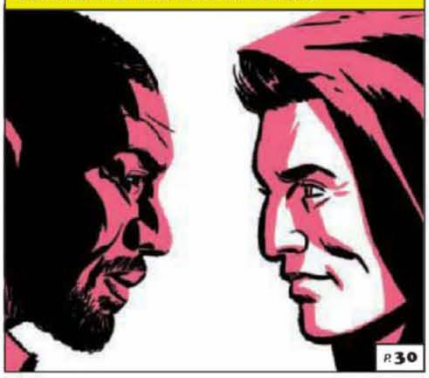
—POPSUGAR

★ ENTERTAINMENT WEEKLY ★

COMIC-CON PREVIEW 2016

IN ANOTHER WORLD, THE GUNSLINGER CONFRONTS THE MAN IN BLACK...



THE AMAZON PRINCESS BRACES FOR BATTLE...

AND A BLACK PLASTIC HERO TOTALLY SNAPS...

JACK BURTON UNCOVERS SECRETS FROM AN ANCIENT PAST...

A TATTOOED MAN BEGINS A NEW ODYSSEY...

AND ONE WOMAN HOLDS THE KEY TO SHERLOCK'S MIND PALACE...

WHILE THE GEEKS FACE THEIR ULTIMATE TEST...

RIVERDALE'S FAMOUS FRENEMIES GET A FACE-LIFT...

AND SUPERGIRL SOARS INTO SAN DIEGO.

AND TURN THE PAGE FOR YOUR COMPLETE GUIDE TO EW AT COMIC-CON 2016, INCLUDING OUR NEW FAN HANGOUT SPACE IN SAN DIEGO!

Comics and lettering by MICHAEL CHO

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WHEN
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July 24 (10 a.m.–3 p.m.)

You don't need a Comic-Con badge to come partake of food, fun, and sun at our great new chill-out locale. Stop by to catch a conversation on the *Entertainment Weekly* Spotlight Stage, stay for evening musical performances and DJ sets (including one by Blake Anderson and Anders Holm of *Workaholics*), even check out episodes of classic TV shows on the big screen. For more details, visit **ew.com/conx**.

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★
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Featuring

TROYE SIVAN

HORTON PLAZA PARK IN THE CENTER OF THE GASLAMP QUARTER
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ENTERTAINMENT WEEKLY SPOTLIGHT STAGE

Fan-favorite creative voices will be stopping by throughout the festival for sit-down interviews with our writers and editors. Guests include:

MELISSA ROSENBERG
Marvel's Jessica Jones

AL JEAN
The Simpsons

CARLTON CUSE
The Strain, Colony

SIVAN: FRANCESCO PRANDONI/REDFERNS/GETTY IMAGES; ROSENBERG: BRENT N. CLARKE/FILMMAGIC.COM; JEAN: ETHAN MILLER/GETTY IMAGES; CUSE: JASON BAHR/GETTY IMAGES FOR SERIESFEST

TEEN WOLF PHOTOGRAPH BY **MICHAEL MULLER**

-CON TO YOU!

ENTERTAINMENT WEEKLY *HAS GOT YOU COVERED. HERE'S HOW TO FOLLOW ALONG WITH THE ACTION.*

ENTERTAINMENT WEEKLY COMIC-CON 2016

EW PANELS at COMIC-CON

BRAVE NEW WARRIORS
• Friday, July 22 • 1:45 p.m. Ballroom 20
Moderator Lynette Rice
Guests Josh Holloway (*Colony*), Dominic Cooper (*Preacher*), Theo Rossi (*Marvel's Luke Cage*), Clive Standen (*Taken*, *Vikings*), Eric Dane (*The Last Ship*), Corey Hawkins (*24: Legacy*)

WOMEN WHO KICK ASS
• Saturday, July 23 • 4:30 p.m. Hall H
Moderator Nicole Sperling
Guests Morena Baccarin (*Gotham*, *Deadpool*), Melissa Benoist (*Supergirl*), Lucy Lawless (*Ash vs Evil Dead*), Tatiana Maslany (*Orphan Black*), Connie Nielsen (*Wonder Woman*)

SILICON VALLEY *[HBO]*
• Thursday, July 21
• 4 p.m. Indigo Ballroom, Hilton Bayfront
Moderator Dan Snierson

TEEN WOLF *[MTV]*
• Thursday, July 21
• 4:30 p.m. Ballroom 20
Moderator Samantha Highfill

IZOMBIE *[THE CW]*
• Friday, July 22
• 5:30 p.m. Ballroom 20
Moderator Danielle Nussbaum

SCREAM QUEENS *[FOX]*
• Friday, July 22
• 6:45 p.m. Ballroom 20
Moderator Tim Stack

THE VAMPIRE DIARIES *[THE CW]*
• Saturday, July 23
• 11 a.m. Ballroom 20
Moderator Samantha Highfill

NICKELODEON'S *ALL THAT* REUNION AND *LEGENDS OF THE HIDDEN TEMPLE*
• Saturday, July 23
• 11:15 a.m. Room 6A
Moderator Marc Snetiker

BLINDSPOT *[NBC]*
• Saturday, July 23
• 12 p.m. Indigo Ballroom, Hilton Bayfront
Moderator Natalie Abrams

ALIENS: 30TH ANNIVERSARY
• Saturday, July 23
• 3:15 p.m. Hall H
Moderator Anthony Breznican

TIMELESS *[NBC]*
• Saturday, July 23
• 4:15 p.m. Room 6A
Moderator Lynette Rice

THE LAST MAN ON EARTH *[FOX]*
• Saturday, July 23
• 6 p.m. Indigo Ballroom, Hilton Bayfront
Moderator Henry Goldblatt

RIVERDALE *[THE CW]*
• Saturday, July 23
• 6:30 p.m. Room 6BCF
Moderator Tim Stack

DESIGNATED SURVIVOR *[ABC]*
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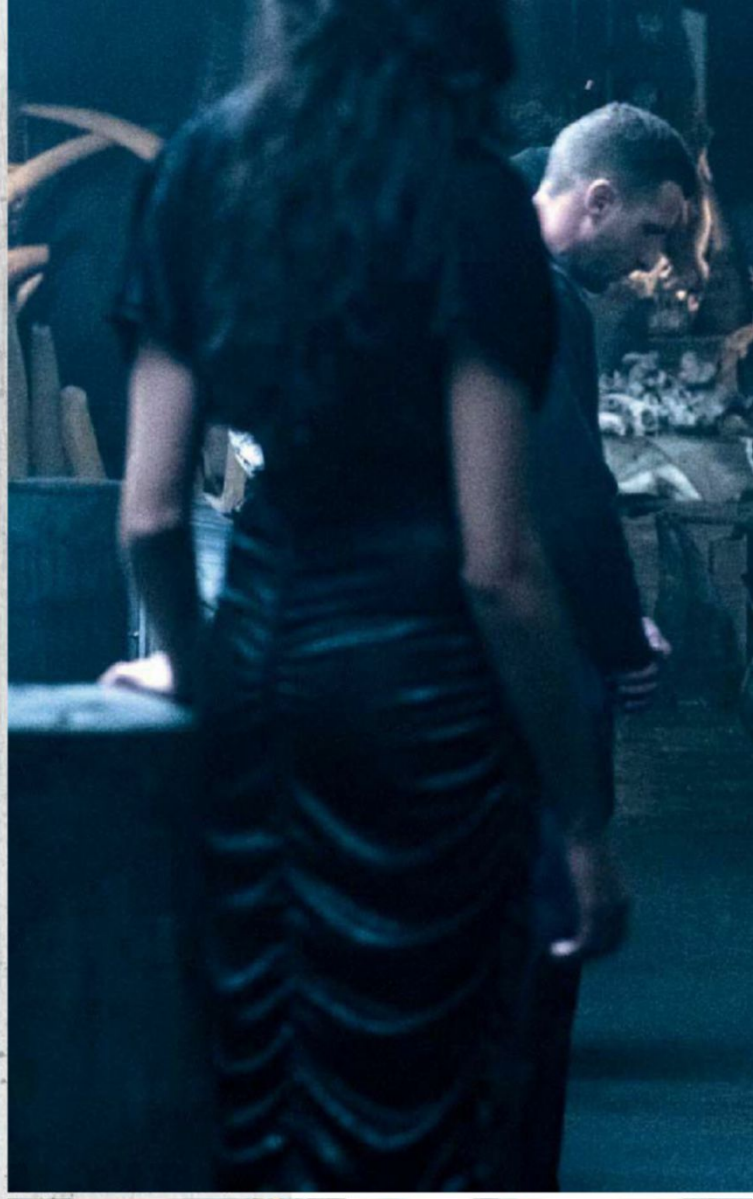
Idris Elba photographed on an altar of the Crimson King on June 18, 2016, in Cape Town, South Africa

EXCLUSIVE FIRST LOOK AT THE DARK TOWER

SIX-GUNS & ROSES

AFTER A DECADE OF TANTALIZING RUMORS, STEPHEN KING'S **THE DARK TOWER** FINALLY ROARS TO LIFE, WITH **IDRIS ELBA** AS THE GUNSLINGER AND **MATTHEW MCCONAUGHEY** AS HIS NEMESIS, THE MAN IN BLACK. ON THE SOUTH AFRICA SET AT THE DAWN OF A SINISTER NEW FILM SAGA. BY ANTHONY BRESNICAN @BRESNICAN

PHOTOGRAPH BY MARCO GROB LETTERING BY TODD KLEIN



AN IMMENSE SHAPE, LIKE A FLOATING FORTRESS IN the mist, looms over the city. At times it vanishes completely, masked by a curtain of seaside clouds. When the midday sun breaks through, the gray cliffs and skyscraping flattop resemble the ruins of impossibly ancient architecture. This is Table Mountain, dominating the skyline of Cape Town, South Africa, and in its shadow, another monolith is rising—the film version of Stephen King's *The Dark Tower*.

The six-guns-and-sorcery saga currently spans eight novels, plus assorted comic books and short stories, and is woven throughout King's larger body of best-sellers. It's a genre mash-up of fantasy, sci-fi, Western, horror, and mystery, set in a world—or worlds, plural—as vast as any built by J.R.R. Tolkien, George Lucas, or J.K. Rowling. But really the story comes down to something fairly simple, expressed in King's opening line, which will also open the film: "The man in black fled across the desert, and the gunslinger followed."

The Dark Tower is set in a dimension called Mid-World, where the apocalypse has already come and gone—and now rolls toward *our* world like a breaking wave. Standing on the horizon of this otherworldly landscape is Idris Elba's Roland Deschain—the Gunslinger—a frontier version of a medieval knight who is thirsting for revenge and haunted by visions of a tower surrounded by roses that he doesn't fully understand. No one does.

"When we meet Roland he's a bit lost," says Elba, sitting in the sun during a break in filming. "He's been walking

[CLOCKWISE FROM TOP] **Creatures in human guise bow to the Man in Black (Matthew McConaughey) at the Dixie Pig; Roland Deschain (Elba); Roland and Jake (Tom Taylor)**

(PREVIOUS SPREAD) PRODUCER: EMMA BUCKLAND/EMMA ARTIST MANAGEMENT; (THIS SPREAD) *THE DARK TOWER*: JESSICA MIGLIO (2); ELBA: ILZE KITSHOFF

around for a long time, so he definitely feels like a man who's...coiled." In a term pulled from King's books, Roland "has forgotten the face of his father." "That's a sense of 'You've forgotten your purpose,'" Elba says. At the start of the film, Roland is driven by rage, but deep down he is something else. "He's a protector," says Elba.

Off in the distance is his quarry: Matthew McConaughey's Walter, a.k.a. the Man in Black, a charismatic warlock who decimated Mid-World, destroyed everyone Roland loved, and is looking for more worlds to end. Bringing down the tower is one way to end them all at once.

Although Roland hates Walter, McConaughey says his villain doesn't return the sentiment. "I revere him," the actor drawls, the wind fluttering his spiky, crow-feathered hair as he reclines on a ruined couch on a rooftop set in downtown Cape Town. "He's really the only true adversary I have. I expose hypocrisies, and he's the closest to pure there is. It's his persistent resilience to be good and altruistic. He's very precious to me. I almost don't want to see him go."

That's the core of it. Good versus evil. A chase. A search. Friends and enemies discovered along the way. At the end of the journey stands the eponymous tower, which is the nexus point of all time and space, the place where dimensions meet—or fall

apart. The edifice is often symbolized by the dusky pink roses with brilliant yellow cores that paint the fields around it. Our world is only one within the tower, and there are many more than this. Whoever rules it rules all. Life. Time. Space. Anything you can imagine.

DARK IS LIGHT

THE FILMMAKERS ARE TRYING THEIR BEST TO MAKE SURE THE MOVIE doesn't collapse under its own weight. Not only do they have to please longtime fans, they also have to entice newcomers without losing them in the labyrinth. If it works—if the movie (with a surprisingly low budget of $60 million) is a hit—it could launch a planned TV series and unending film sequels. If moviegoers and critics balk, then the *Dark Tower* franchise will be like one of those unfinished buildings where only the foundation was laid before work was abandoned.

Over the past decade, heavyweights such as J.J. Abrams and Ron Howard have tried to bring King's epic to the screen. But for many studios, it was too intricate, too weird, and too expensive. After all those false starts, this movie, which Sony Pictures and production company MRC studios will release in theaters Feb. 17, has simultaneously become a dream come true for King's readers and something that fills them with anxiety.

King himself gets it. "I feel more wrapped up in this one because the books took so long to write and the fan base is so dedicated," he says. So instead of keeping the film at arm's length, King has been offering suggestions from afar. "They sent me a number of different drafts [of the screenplay] and...it came into focus, let's put it that way. I'm 100 percent behind it—which doesn't mean it necessarily will work, just that it's a good way to try to get into these stories."

Among King's obsessive readers is *The Dark Tower*'s director and co-writer, Nikolaj Arcel, a Danish filmmaker who says he learned English as a teen just so he could read King's books in their native language. Some may see a sinister story. He sees a fable about doing the right thing. Despite the tower's ominous name, it actually stands for something good. "The tower is a beacon of light in a world that's cynical and dark and sometimes feels a little hopeless, and this is about the quest for that," says Arcel, who's best known for directing the Oscar-nominated *A Royal Affair* and for co-writing the script for the Swedish version of *The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo*. "This is the quest to save the hope and the light."

The main threat to the tower's eternal existence is a boy—one who doesn't want to harm it at all. Walter is searching for this prize, a teenager named Jake Chambers (15-year-old Tom Taylor, in his first film role), who lives in our world and possesses "the Shine," a powerful psychic ability that King readers should recognize—even if they're reading it backward on a mirror.

Jake's especially strong "Shine" can be harnessed by the Man in Black to punch through the membranes of reality and crack the mystical "Beams" that keep the tower standing. He's not the first "Breaker" Walter has kidnapped. He might be the last one he needs, though.

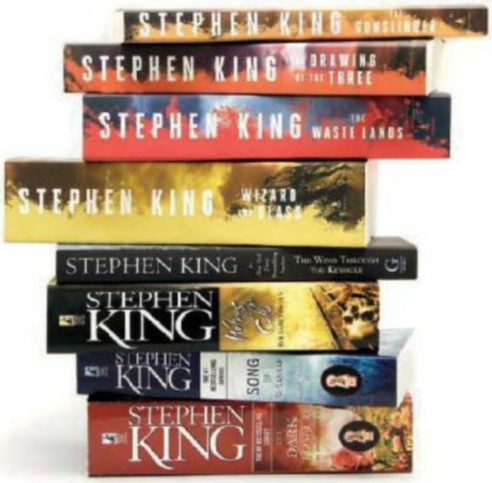
"This is great news!" McConaughey says, speaking from Walter's perspective. "One, this is what I need to get the job done. Two, it's a field trip for me. I haven't been down there in a long time. The devil likes New York. Let's go sing and dance and do some detective work and find the boy with the Shine!"

Jake is having dreams and visions of the Gunslinger and is determined to find him, even if no one else in our world believes he's real. But the

TOWER OF IDEAS

THE MOVIE WILL REFERENCE EVERY TITLE IN THE DARK TOWER SERIES.

BY ANTHONY BRECZNICAN



[FROM TOP]

Book I
THE GUNSLINGER
1982
This book sets up Roland's quest for vengeance against the Man in Black and forges his bond with a mysterious boy.

Book II
THE DRAWING OF THE THREE
1987
Notions of parallel realities stacked atop one another and "ka-tet" (a family found through destiny) originated here.

Book III
THE WASTE LANDS
1991
The movie features this book's Dutch Hill, a decrepit Brooklyn mansion that comes alive to protect a portal to Mid-World.

Book IV
WIZARD AND GLASS
1997
This flashback novel's mystical orbs, which are windows to other times and places, are used by the film's Man in Black.

Book IV S
THE WIND THROUGH THE KEYHOLE
2012
The power of fantasy to bend reality is a theme of both the film and this book, which is set mid-quest.

Book V
WOLVES OF THE CALLA
2003
The movie features this novel's Manni village, a tribe of shaman-like spiritualists who know how to navigate the paths between worlds.

Book VI
SONG OF SUSANNAH
2004
Both film and book venture into the grim corridors of the Dixie Pig, a New York way station for bloodthirsty otherworldly beings.

Book VII
THE DARK TOWER
2004
The final book features Sombra Corporation, a front in our world for followers of the Crimson King, a force who'll be freed if the tower falls.

METTIE OSTROWSKI

[FROM LEFT] **Jake (Taylor) with sketches of his visions, including the tower; director Nikolaj Arcel, Taylor, and Elba on set**

ILZE KITSHOFF (2)

vibrations Jake's sending across the dimensions are leading the Man in Black his way instead. So Roland chases Walter, Walter chases Jake, and Jake chases Roland. "It's completely circular," says Arcel. "It fits very well into the nature of the entire saga."

SILENCE IS STRENGTH

THIS THEME—THAT FATE (OR "KA," IN THE LANGUAGE OF THE TOWER) IS A WHEEL that always comes around to the same place while rolling us inexorably forward—matches perfectly with King's novels. But the movie is also taking some major liberties with the story (see sidebar, opposite), albeit with the blessing of the Creator. "All I can say is that Steve is our partner all the way through," says Akiva Goldsman, an Oscar winner for *A Beautiful Mind*, who co-wrote the script. "So we don't make a move without Stephen telling us, 'That is *The Dark Tower*.'"

One obvious switch is the fact that Roland has always been depicted as white, although to Elba that change is no deeper than a layer of skin. "It's better just to treat it like no big deal," Elba says. "I think what's great about it, if I want to say anything about it, is that it is a sign of the times in terms of a colorless society. People go, 'A good actor is a good actor,' you know?"

King has been a supporter of Elba's casting from the get-go. "I think it's fascinating, man," the author says. But before signing off on the script, King made some of his own modifications. "I took a pen and cut Roland's dialogue to the bone," the author says. "The less he says, the better off. Idris Elba can act with his face. He's terrific at it. He projects that sense of combined menace and security. [Roland] is the Western hero, the strong, silent type: 'Yep,' 'Nope,' and 'Draw.'"

A far more significant story change is the absence of two major characters who, in the books, were pulled from our world to join Roland's quest: the reformed heroin junkie, Eddie, and the amputee with multiple personalities, Susannah. Those characters didn't join the saga until the second book, 1987's *The Drawing of the Three*, and Arcel felt it was important to establish the Gunslinger's solitude before establishing his "ka-tet," or fate-forged family. "They're certainly out there," Arcel says. "I think the entire story deserves to be told and should be told. I would certainly be disappointed in myself or my collaborators if we didn't bring them in [eventually]." There may be a reference to them in the cards, but we won't see them in this film.

For those worried about fidelity to the source material, there's another twist. By the end of the books, Roland has come into possession of an artifact known as the Horn of Eld, and blowing it is like hitting a cosmic reset button. When Roland uses it, he starts the quest over again, but things never play out exactly as they have before. In the movie, he already has this tool, a signal that the film represents a new do-over. "Hardcore fans will know that this is actually a sequel to the books, in a way," Arcel says. "It has a lot of the same elements, a lot of the same characters, but it is a different journey."

A strange journey, for sure. One that's not only venturing through a very, very long shadow, but adding to it as it goes... ◆

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LOGO BY **SUNDAY BÜRO**

STEPHEN KING'S

THE LEGENDARY AUTHOR UNLOCKS THE SECRET

TAKE A LOOK AT ANY STACK OF STEPHEN KING NOVELS AND WHAT YOU'RE REALLY LOOKING at are chapters in one big story. At the center stands his epic, *The Dark Tower*, which binds them all together. Characters and themes from his other novels echo in the Tower series, and vice versa. "Everything that I've done kind of reflects back to the Dark Tower books," King says. "I'm totally intuitive about this. I don't plot ahead, I don't outline, and when you start to see those connections, you embrace them." To help sort it all out, King guides us through all the unspoken ways the new movie connects to his other tales.

1

THE SHINING

Psychic powers in the *Dark Tower* film are referred to as the Shine, which means Jake Chambers, the boy at its center, has the same abilities that little Danny Torrance had in King's 1977 novel (and the 2013 sequel, **Doctor Sleep**). So does that mean the prom queen in *Carrie* had a malevolent version of the Shine? "I don't know, man," King says with a laugh. "It's like the guy says in *House of Cards*: 'You might think so, but I couldn't possibly comment.'"

2

THE STAND

Randall Flagg, the charismatic villain from King's 1978 Americana apocalypse and 1987's **The Eyes of the Dragon**, is the same sinister presence Matthew McConaughey plays in *The Dark Tower*, only now operating under a different alias: Walter, the Man in Black. "At some point I realized that Randall Flagg and Walter were the same character," King says. "Once you take this idea that Mid-World is connected to our world, you say, 'Well, okay, this guy shows up again and again.'"

KING: STEVE SCHOFIELD/CONTOUR/GETTY IMAGES; *THE SHINING*: WARNER BROS./THE KOBAL COLLECTION; *THE STAND*: ABC PHOTO ARCHIVES/ABC/GETTY IMAGES

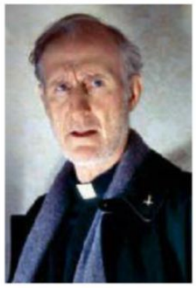
DARK UNIVERSE

CONNECTIONS BETWEEN THE DARK TOWER AND HIS OTHER TALES. BY ANTHONY BRENNICAN

3

HEARTS IN ATLANTIS

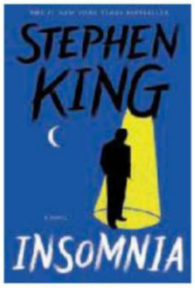
In the 1999 story collection, Ted Brautigan is a psychic who, like Jake in *The Dark Tower*, is being pursued as a "Breaker," someone who can help collapse the tower. The film of *Hearts in Atlantis* dropped the tower references and had Brautigan (Anthony Hopkins) being pursued by government agents for Cold War research. "I wish they had gone more supernatural with that," King says. "I thought there was a way to do that."



4

'SALEM'S LOT

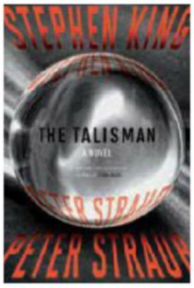
Father Callahan, the priest in this 1975 book who loses his faith and drinks the blood of a vampire, becomes a key ally of Roland the Gunslinger in the later Dark Tower books. If there are sequels to the movie, he may turn up on screen. "I'd love to see him in there," King says wistfully. "But we'll have to see how the [first] film does."



5

INSOMNIA

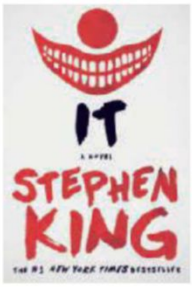
In this 1994 novel, an elderly man begins having visions after losing the ability to sleep, and comes to learn about a mystical tower that stands for all the levels of reality—and the agents of the Crimson King who want to tear it down. This was the first time King began to connect the Tower books to his other stories: "*Insomnia* was the first place where I understood [the links] consciously and I started to work all this stuff in there."



6

THE TALISMAN

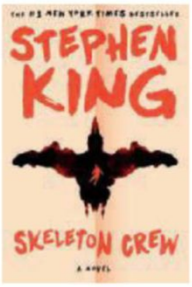
This 1984 fantasy epic, co-written with Peter Straub, takes place in the Territories, a neighbor to *The Dark Tower*'s Mid-World. But the coauthors didn't make that connection explicit until their 2001 sequel, **Black House**. "It seemed almost undeniable that if we were talking about another world that you could flip into, it would be related to Mid-World," King says. Not unlike the kingdoms on *Game of Thrones*. "An analog would be Westeros and Meereen."



7

IT

Later in the Dark Tower books, Roland and his posse meet Dandelo, a creature who feeds on emotion—particularly fear—just like the fiend that manifested itself as Pennywise the dancing clown. Fans have long theorized they're the same kind of monster, but King doesn't go that far. "I would say that they were probably related just because they both came from my head," he says. "But it wasn't a conscious thing to say one was like the other."



8

"THE JAUNT"

In *The Dark Tower*, some portals between worlds are technologically created. So the film's producers asked King if the devices were related to this 1981 short story in **Skeleton Crew**. It's about a mass-transit system that opens time/space portals, but if passengers go through awake, they emerge insane on the other side. King hadn't considered a link between the two, but he's game: "If your mind's going there, go with God."

HEARTS IN ATLANTIS: WARNER BROS./EVERETT COLLECTION; *'SALEM'S LOT*: FRANK OCKENFELS/WARNER BROS. TV/THE KOBAL COLLECTION

Bill Skarsgård [ABOVE] and as Pennywise [LEFT]

EXCLUSIVE FIRST LOOK

HERE'S PENNYWISE

IN NEXT YEAR'S IT, BILL SKARSGÅRD SINKS HIS TEETH INTO STEPHEN KING'S MOST TERRIFYING VILLAIN. BY ANTHONY BREZNICAN PHOTOGRAPH BY MARCO GROB

HE'S GOT BIG SHOES TO fill. In next year's film adaptation of Stephen King's *It*, Bill Skarsgård takes on the role of Pennywise the dancing clown, the most fearsome creature to ever clutch a bouquet of balloons. This bloodthirsty funster is the favorite embodiment of a shapeless evil that dwells beneath a small town and feeds on the fear—and sometimes limbs—of children. "It truly enjoys the shape of the clown Pennywise, and enjoys the game and the hunt," says Skarsgård (*Allegiant*), 25, who starts shooting this week. "What's funny to this evil entity might not be funny to everyone else. But he thinks it's funny." The actor also follows in the footsteps of Tim Curry, who did unforgettable work as the monster in a 1990 TV miniseries. "Tim Curry's performance was truly great, but it's important for me to do something different because of that," says Skarsgård. This manifestation of Pennywise from director Andrés Muschietti's film (out Sept. 8, 2017) is elegant, precise—even alluring. He's in control. We asked Stephen King to comment on the image, and he was also unsettled. "It's a scary clown," King said. "But to me they're all scary."

PENNYWISE: MARCO GROB; SKARSGARD: JIM SPELLMAN/WIREIMAGE/GETTY IMAGES

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Gal Gadot as WONDER WOMAN

★ ON THE SET ★

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NEXT SUMMER **WONDER WOMAN** WILL BECOME THE FIRST FEMALE SUPERHERO TO LAND HER OWN FILM. ON THE SET WITH **GAL GADOT**, THE FIERCE, FUNNY STAR WHO'S ABOUT TO MAKE HISTORY.

[By] NICOLE SPERLING

[Photograph By] CLAY ENOS

PAGE # 43

It's

MID-MARCH AT ENGLAND'S LEAVESDEN Studios, but the frigid, damp day feels far more like the depths of winter. Sleet-gray clouds hang heavy in the air. An unforgiving wind blasts across a sodden field. The conditions beg for a cup of hot tea and a warm fire, but instead, Gal Gadot is standing atop a tower five stories in the air wearing a glorified bathing suit.

But as the 31-year-old Israeli beauty steps to the front of the structure to survey the enemies that her character has just defeated, she doesn't look the least bit cold. Dressed in full regalia, from her high-heeled boots to her golden tiara, she looks like the hero we've all been waiting for. She looks like Wonder Woman. "It was such an important moment," she says later. "Even though the weather was not cooperating, I had to deal with it." She shrugs off a question about her discomfort. "What's to say?" she replies, and laughs. "It was cold. My ovaries froze."

Generally speaking, ovaries, frozen or otherwise, are rarely an issue for most superhero movies, and there's no question that *Wonder Woman* arrives at an important moment for Gadot, and for the comic-book film as a genre. Thanks to a certain (regressive) line of Hollywood thinking that female characters don't hold the same appeal for fans, the genre's most beloved heroine has had to suffer through numerous abandoned scripts and false starts before landing her own starring vehicle—even as plenty of lesser-known good guys (Blade, Hellboy, et al.) were gifted their own franchises. To say a lot is riding on Gadot's impressively muscular shoulders is an understatement. "I think part of the reason *Wonder Woman* hasn't happened [until now] is because the right way to do it is as a classic origin story," says director Patty Jenkins (*Monster*). "People were afraid to do it with a woman, and now they are less so."

Due June 2, 2017, *Wonder Woman* is indeed an origin story—plus a love story and an action-adventure saga—that begins on the peaceful island of Themyscira and concludes in Europe at the end of World War I. Along the way, we learn why Princess Diana—the beloved child of a race of Amazons—chooses to leave her harmonious home and venture into the complicated world of mortals. We will meet Steve Trevor, the pilot and American spy played by *Star Trek*'s Chris Pine, who steals her heart, along with characters pulled directly from the comic books that established Wonder Woman as a feminist icon: Connie Nielsen as Diana's mother, Queen Hippolyta; Robin Wright as her aunt General Antiope; and Lucy Davis as her ally Etta Candy.

"I've got the opportunity to portray a great role model for girls to look up to—a strong, active, compassionate, loving, positive woman," Gadot says. "I think it's so important, and it's about time somebody does that. I'm very privileged to be the one." Jenkins also speaks about her involvement in the film as a privilege: "Part of the reason I'm in such a good mood is that this is the movie I've wanted to make my entire life." Jenkins first met with Warner Bros. about a possible Wonder Woman film back in 2005, well before

[FROM LEFT] **Chris Pine and Gadot**

Gadot with director Patty Jenkins on set

BRACE YOURSELF!

GAL GADOT WINS THE SUPERHERO-COSTUME ARMS RACE WITH HER NEW AND IMPROVED ARMORED GAUNTLETS. [By] **NICOLE SPERLING**

EVERYONE KNOWS accessories make the superhero—think Batman could save Gotham without all that high-tech gadgetry? So it's no surprise Wonder Woman has a little something up her sleeve.

For the character's first solo starring turn, costume designer Lindy Hemming (*The Dark Knight*) fashioned a new take on the bullet-repelling arm braces Gal Gadot debuted in *Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice*. Officially called vambraces, they are constructed from a polyurethane fabric—"strong but lightweight and bendable," says Hemming, and sculpted to Gadot's specific forearm measurements. Armor artists then hand-painted them to look like metal with gold and bronze highlights. (Quite the update from the more modest bracelets of the Lynda Carter era.)

Underneath the indestructible shields are leather wrappings inspired by boxers who bind their hands before a match—in this case, Hemming & Co. designed a fingerless hand glove that came with the binding attached. Because the last thing Wonder Woman needs to deal with is a time-consuming costume adjustment. —**NICOLE SPERLING**

Lynda Carter

extended "cinematic universes" had become the financial bedrock of the major studios. She had just directed Charlize Theron to a Best Actress Oscar as serial killer Aileen Wuornos in her feature debut, *Monster*, and her next priority was to make a superhero movie. That's a challenge for a female director on a good day. Jenkins had the added complication of being pregnant. Helming a blockbuster is an arduous task that typically keeps filmmakers away from their families for a year or more. "You can't do that with a little baby," she says. "Somebody might be able to do it, but not me."

The studio and producer Joel Silver (*V for Vendetta*) next flirted with geek oracle Joss Whedon (*The Avengers*) to write and direct, but the project never gained traction. False starts continued for years—until WB finally committed to a new plan to turn many of its DC Comics characters into movie stars. Zack Snyder's *Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice* laid much of the groundwork, including introducing Gadot to audiences as the valiant Princess Diana.

"Necessity breeds invention," says *Wonder Woman* producer Chuck Roven. "We spent a fair amount of time getting this script right, but we also had a big, big motor [pushing us]. Expanding the DC universe was a major priority for Warner Bros." So too was hiring a female director for *Wonder Woman*. Michelle MacLaren (*Game of Thrones*, *Breaking Bad*) was brought on initially, but after her departure, the studio turned to Jenkins. A stickler for casting, Jenkins says she couldn't believe her good fortune with Gadot. "The natural spirit of Gal is Wonder Woman," the director says. "She's so kind, so good, so beautiful and capable of being sexy, but not in a way that makes other women uncomfortable. It's what Wonder Woman should be."

Back on set, the sky opens and rain begins to fall, and Jenkins debates whether to keep Gadot atop the tower for another take, even as she cracks jokes with her star. "How about we see how much like Wonder Woman you are?" she calls out. "We'd like you to run in heels and work seven days a week." Try *that*, Batman. ◆

WONDER WOMAN: CLAY ENOS (3); CARTER: ABC PHOTO ARCHIVES/GETTY IMAGES

MOVI

John Goodman, Tom Hiddleston, Brie Larson, and John C. Reilly

Movies lettering by **TODD KLEIN**

Kong: Skull Island

"The world was falling apart. Political scandals, social unrest, all sorts of chaos that people didn't really know how to deal with." Director Jordan Vogt-Roberts is talking about the 1970s, the time period that backdrops next year's *Kong: Skull Island*, but feel free to spot the contemporary resonance. The film stars Tom Hiddleston as a British Special Forces vet and Brie Larson as a war photographer, alongside John Goodman and John C. Reilly, seen here with a pretty impressive saber. "They're thrust into this island, and a big part of [the movie] is them rediscovering themselves as they go." ¶ Along the way, they also rediscover a certain extra-large ape. "Our Kong is by far the biggest Kong [in the franchise] and that translates to a lot of different things on the island," Vogt-Roberts explains. The director promises to bring radical new visions to Kong's world. "I don't know where I've ever seen a massive war scene take place in a massive boneyard of skeletal remains of massive prehistoric species." Who needs the Empire State Building anyway? —**DARREN FRANICH**

STARRING
TOM HIDDLESTON, BRIE LARSON, JOHN GOODMAN

DIRECTED BY
JORDAN VOGT-ROBERTS

RELEASE DATE
March 10 / 2017

DOCTOR STRANGE

STARRING
BENEDICT CUMBERBATCH, TILDA SWINTON, CHIWETEL EJIOFOR

DIRECTED BY
SCOTT DERRICKSON

RELEASE DATE
NOVEMBER 4 / 2016

How similar is the brilliant title character Benedict Cumberbatch plays on BBC America's *Sherlock* to the brilliant title character he plays in Marvel's new superhero movie *Doctor Strange*? "The two men are intelligent," says Cumberbatch, whose surgeon-turned-sorcerer Stephen Strange can be seen in the exclusive concept art below. And? "Finito," the actor says. "That's it. Stephen Strange is a lover, he's a materialist, he's arrogant, but he's got a great sense of humor. There are smatterings of the same colors that Sherlock has, but he's not on the spectrum." —CLARK COLLIS

Concept art for *Doctor Strange*

Concept art for *Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 2*

Guardians OF THE G

STARRING
CHRIS PRATT, ZOE SALDANA, DAVE BAUTISTA, KURT RUSSELL

DIRECTED BY
JAMES GUNN

RELEASE DATE
May 05 / 2017

In this concept art for Marvel's superhero sequel, you can see all your favorites: Drax, Groot, Yondu, Star-Lord, Rocket, Nebula, and Gamora. But wait! Who's that alien lady with the antennae? The answer is, a brand-new character named Mantis, an acquaintance of the Guardians played by actress Pom Klementieff (Spike Lee's *Oldboy*). "She has never really experienced social interaction," says executive producer Jonathan Schwartz. "Everything she learns about dealing with people, she learns from the Guardians of the Galaxy,

(PREVIOUS SPREAD) CHUCK ZLOTNICK; (THIS PAGE) RYAN MEINERDING (2)

DEEP CUT *Two months before* **Doctor Strange** *made his 1963 comics debut in* Strange Tales *#110, Iron Man fought an entirely different, and*

alaxy VOL. 2

which is a very weird group to learn your social intricacies from." Mantis may not be the only new character, according to Schwartz, who says audiences will be treated to a very different Groot from the stoic man-tree of the original 2014 film. "He doesn't have the wisdom and experience of that Groot," Schwartz says. "He's a younger Groot and a more rambunctious Groot. The question is, is he the same Groot, just smaller? Or is he a different Groot that's sprung up from the seed of the first Groot?" We'll leaf it at that for now. —CLARK COLLIS

POWER RANGERS: KIMBERLEY FRENCH

much more evil, character of that name in Tales of Suspense *#41.* •

POWER RANGERS

STARRING
ELIZABETH BANKS, BRYAN CRANSTON, BECKY G, NAOMI SCOTT, RJ CYLER, LUDI LIN, DACRE MONTGOMERY

DIRECTED BY
DEAN ISRAELITE

RELEASE DATE
March 24 / 2017

RITA REPULSA (ELIZABETH BANKS) IS ABOUT to have such a headache. The villainess hopes to conquer Earth in the *Power Rangers* revival due next March, but five teens with attitude stand in her way. In an attempt to take them down one by one, Rita ambushes Yellow Ranger Trini (pop star Becky G) in her bedroom. The stars made sure to sell the intense showdown, even if it meant getting genuine battle scars. "Elizabeth and I wanted to make this scene as real as possible," Becky G recalls. "I actually told her, 'Don't be afraid to put pressure on my neck.'" She laughs. "Little did I know the next day I'd have bruises." ¶ Still, the singer-actress worried more about her performance than her injuries. "It's my first film, so I was nervous," she admits. "It was a bit intimidating, because, you know, it's Elizabeth! I was really, really focused the days I was with her." As focused as possible, at least. "There were times when I was in my harness, hanging there like a little piñata, just waiting to get thrown into the wall," she says. "That cracked us up." To borrow a phrase from Alpha 5: Aye yai yai yai yai yai! —SHIRLEY LI

Becky G and Elizabeth Banks

THE LEGO BATMAN MOVIE

STARRING
WILL ARNETT, ROSARIO DAWSON, ZACH GALIFIANAKIS

DIRECTED BY
CHRIS McKAY

RELEASE DATE
February 10 / 2017

Will Arnett's brooding Batman was such a scene-stealer in 2014's *The LEGO Movie* that the blocky superhero gets his very own spin-off, *The LEGO Batman Movie*, next February. "What came out of [the first film] was the idea of, Batman is the Dark Knight, so why is he so moody?" says Arnett, who burrowed back into the Bruce Waynes of old for inspiration. "When we were first finding the voice, I tried to look at all the Batmen and think about what was funny about each one, and now I'm in a lucky zone where I just get to mix and match." In addition to spending some time with his fellow Justice Leaguers (including Michael Cera's Robin), he'll match wits with his greatest nemesis: the Joker, as maniacally voiced by Zach Galifianakis. "Zach and I got to record together, and the dynamic we landed on for these two characters I would describe as...refreshing," says Arnett, laughing. "It's not what people are accustomed to." Well, hey, neither is seeing a Batman made of pieces unsafe for children under 4. —MARC SNETIKER

VALERIAN and the CITY OF A THOUSAND PLANETS

King Arthur: LEGEND OF THE SWORD

STARRING
CHARLIE HUNNAM, DJIMON HOUNSOU, JUDE LAW

DIRECTED BY
GUY RITCHIE

RELEASE DATE
March 24 / 2017

Did anyone really expect pub-brawl auteur Guy Ritchie (*Snatch*) to deliver a straightforward, hither-and-thither take on the once and future king? Of course not. Even though Charlie Hunnam might still pull a sword from a stone to begin his journey to the throne, his Arthur is a little more street than his forebears. "He's a bit rough around the edges, but he's basically a survivor," Hunnam says. "There's definitely a harder edge than people would imagine." (That edge serves him well when dealing with his tyrannical uncle, Jude Law's Vortigern.) No word yet on whether this Arthur's court will feature bare-knuckle boxing, but—let's be real—probably. —KEVIN P. SULLIVAN

[LEFT] Charlie Hunnam
[RIGHT] Jude Law as Vortigern

STARRING
DANE DeHAAN, CARA DELEVINGNE, RIHANNA

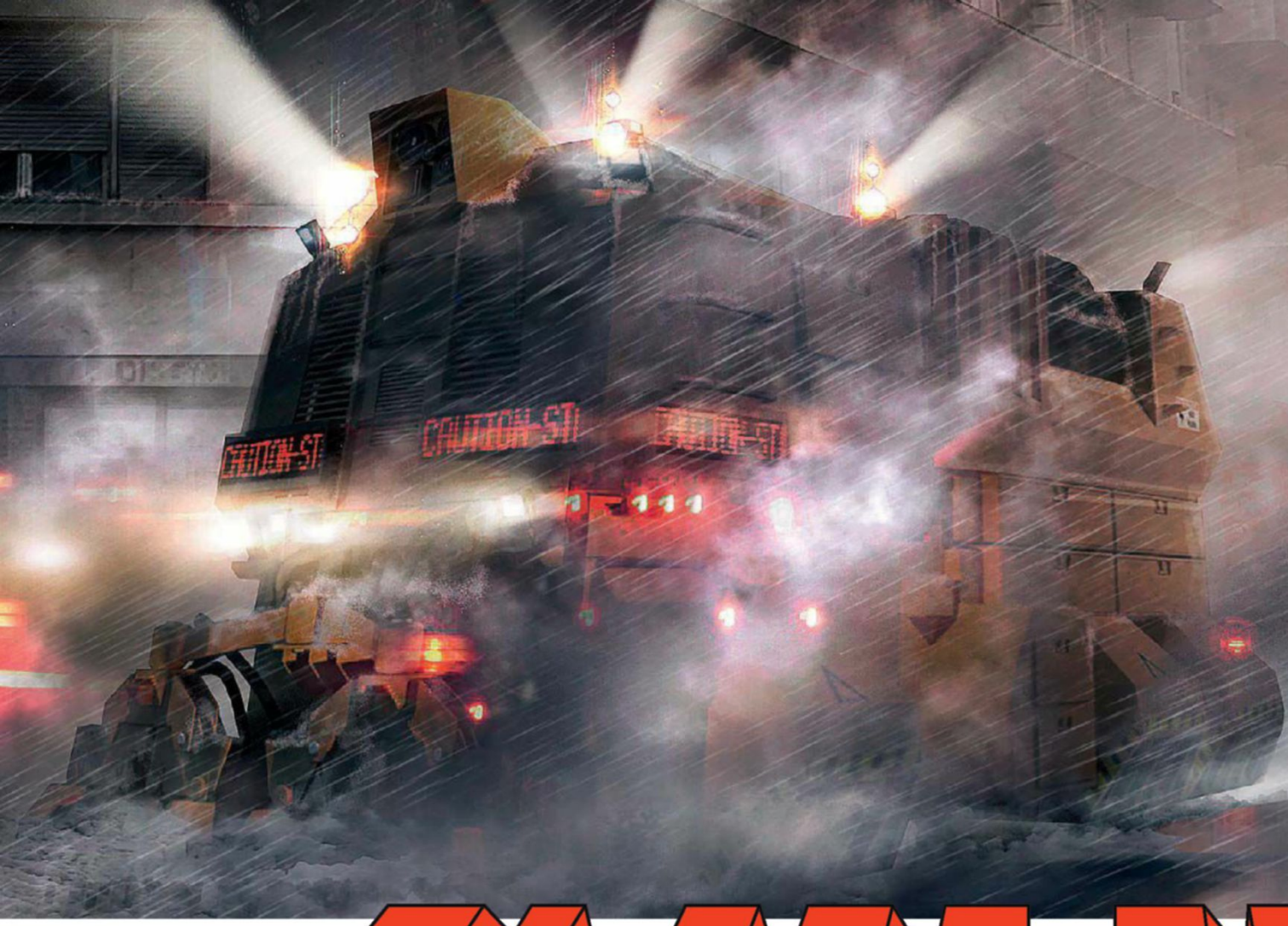
DIRECTED BY
LUC BESSON

RELEASE DATE
July 21 / 2017

WITH A BUDGET OF $180 million, the new sci-fi extravaganza from French director Luc Besson (*The Fifth Element*, *Lucy*) ranks as the most expensive European movie ever made. The film is based on a vibrant graphic-novel series that's been a touchstone for *Star Wars* and *Avatar*, yet Besson exhibited his offbeat flair by casting indie favorite Dane DeHaan (*Chronicle*) as the title character, a time-traveling cop who solves an intergalactic mystery while crushing on his partner, Laureline (Cara Delevingne). DeHaan knew he needed to up his awesome quotient. "It occurred to me that I had to look like I could save the universe," says the actor, who worked with a trainer to achieve a more carved physique. "But luckily, it's France. They have reasonable working hours." —JOE McGOVERN

Dane DeHaan

THE LEGO BATMAN MOVIE: WARNER BROS.; *KING ARTHUR: LEGEND OF THE SWORD*: DANIEL SMITH (2); *VALERIAN AND THE CITY OF A THOUSAND PLANETS*: LOU FALLON



UNTITLED BLADE R

STARRING
HARRISON FORD,
RYAN GOSLING,
ROBIN WRIGHT

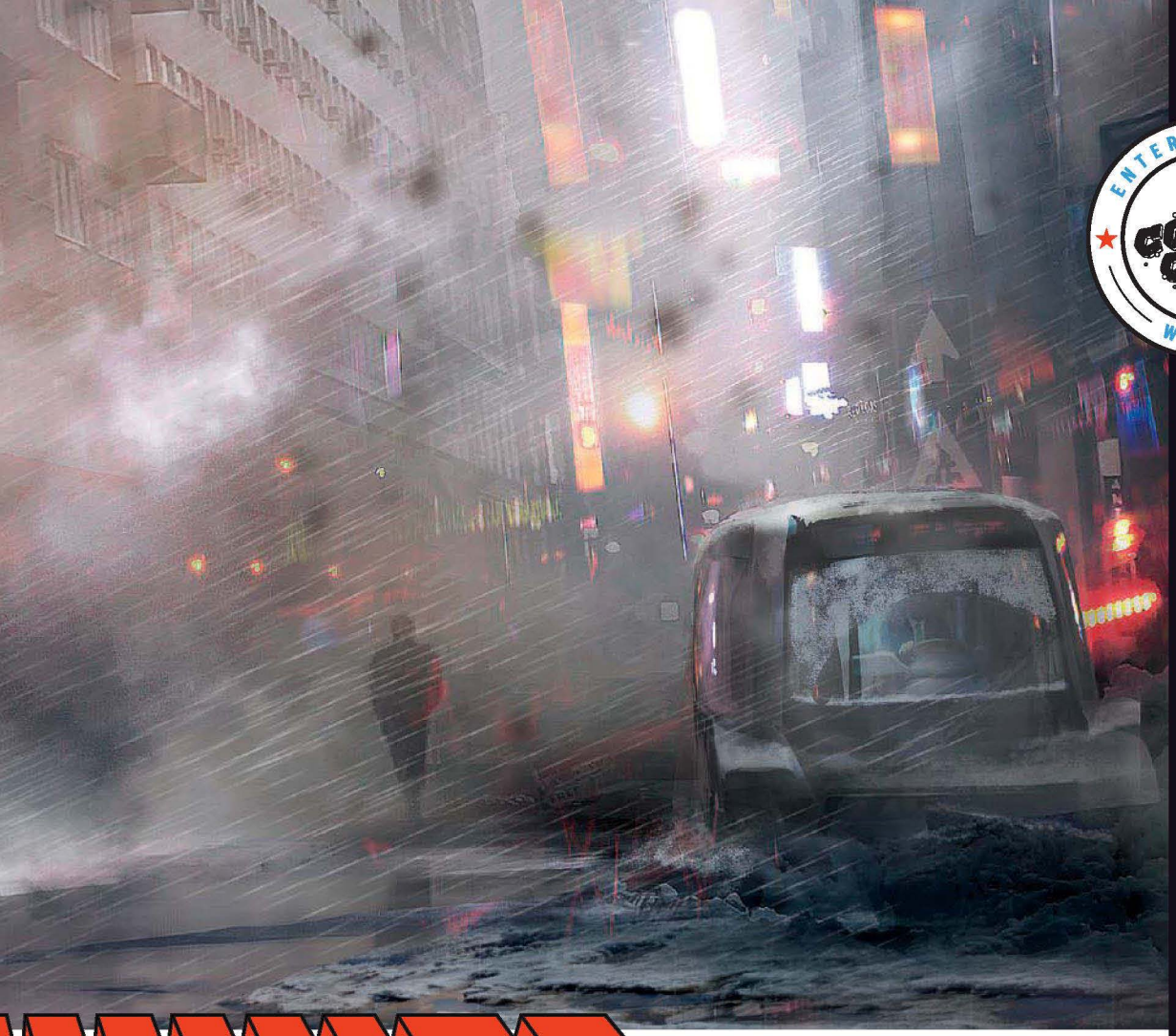
DIRECTED BY
DENIS VILLENEUVE

RELEASE DATE
October
06 / 2017

In 1982, in a small Quebec town, Denis Villeneuve (*Sicario*) went to see Ridley Scott's *Blade Runner*, unaware that the sci-fi classic would change his destiny. "I remember the opening sequence perfectly," Villeneuve says. "That note of music, seeing Los Angeles in 2019, that smog, that darkness. It's really the movie that gave birth to my desire to become a director." So it's fair to say the stakes were high when he was asked to take the reins of a sequel. But a conversation with Hampton Fancher—who adapted Philip K. Dick's *Do*

DEEP CUT *Rick Deckard remains one of* **Harrison Ford***'s most iconic roles, but he wasn't the first actor to meet with Ridley Scott for the part.*

LETTERING BY **TODD KLEIN**



The vehicle in this concept art from the sequel hovers over streets and destroys toxic snow

UNNER SEQUEL

Androids Dream of Electric Sheep? into the original *Blade Runner* script—quelled his anxiety. "He told me that *Blade Runner* was a dream," Villeneuve says. "We just have to dream again and not worry too much about logic."

Plot details for the new film, written by Fancher and Michael Green, are top secret, but Villeneuve did confirm that the follow-up takes place decades after the original. The setting is once again a future Los Angeles, one that spreads over much of the West Coast. "The climate has gone berserk—the ocean, the rain, the snow is all toxic," Villeneuve says.

Harrison Ford reprises his role as Rick Deckard, alongside Ryan Gosling, Robin Wright, and more. Scott is an executive producer. Says Villeneuve: "Failure is not an option." —SARA VILKOMERSON

Dustin Hoffman had many conversations with the filmmaker about starring in Blade Runner, *but ultimately their visions for the character were too dissimilar.*

SUICIDE SQUAD

STARRING
JARED LETO, MARGOT ROBBIE, WILL SMITH, JAY HERNANDEZ

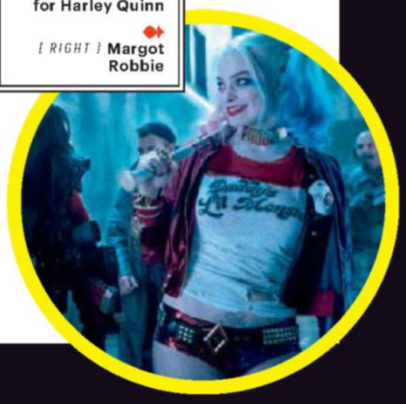
DIRECTED BY
DAVID AYER

RELEASE DATE
August 05 / 2016

When *Suicide Squad* costume designer Kate Hawley was fashioning the look for Margot Robbie's lovesick siren Harley Quinn, she hit upon a wild mash-up of comic-book iconography mixed with references from the Instagram accounts of Mexican drug cartels and the rebel attire of rock & roll icons Debbie Harry, Courtney Love, and Patti Smith. She wanted Harley's sex appeal to stem from the character herself, Hawley says, rather than be dictated by what her boyfriend the Joker (Jared Leto) might like. "She's a girl's hero," Hawley says. "It was understanding how do we make her feel sexy by owning it as opposed to what a man thinks is sexy."

And in Robbie's mind, Hawley says, that meant showing off her legs and derriere in spandex shorts paired with a renegade T-shirt to emphasize Harley's devil-may-care attitude. It also meant running through the streets in three-inch Jeremy Scott baseball boots and gaudy jewelry gifted to her by the Joker. "She always wanted to look pretty," Hawley says of Robbie. Just in that unique Harley way.
—NICOLE SPERLING

[TOP] Concept art for Harley Quinn
[RIGHT] Margot Robbie



Eddie Redmayne and Katherine Waterston

FANTASTIC BEASTS and WHERE TO FIND THEM

STARRING
EDDIE REDMAYNE, KATHERINE WATERSTON, ALISON SUDOL, DAN FOGLER

DIRECTED BY
DAVID YATES

RELEASE DATE
NOVEMBER 18 / 2016

WHERE'S AN INVISIBILITY cloak when you need one? Newt Scamander (Eddie Redmayne) and Porpentina "Tina" Goldstein (Katherine Waterston) take cover while sneaking around the MACUSA building (that's the Magical Congress of the United States of America, of course) in the eagerly anticipated Harry Potter spin-off *Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them*. The film follows the eccentric globe-trotting magizoologist as he hunts escaped creatures in 1920s New York with the help of some new American friends. "It's this fish-out-of-water story of an Englishman in New York," says director David Yates, "and you get this wonderful juxtaposition between the two cultures because there are very different rules and politics in the American wizarding world."
—JAMES HIBBERD

HARLEY QUINN CONCEPT ART: WARNER BROS. (2); *SUICIDE SQUAD*: CLAY ENOS; *FANTASTIC BEASTS AND WHERE TO FIND THEM*: JAAP BUITENDIJK

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The Oral History

BIG TROUBLE

IN LITTLE CHINA

JOHN CARPENTER WAS AT THE PINNACLE OF HIS CAREER WHEN HE WAS OFFERED THE CHANCE TO DIRECT A BIG-BUDGET ACTION COMEDY ABOUT A TRUCK DRIVER AND HIS MYSTICAL MISADVENTURES IN SAN FRANCISCO'S CHINATOWN. THIRTY YEARS ON, THE DIRECTOR AND CAST LOOK BACK AT THE UNLIKELIEST CULT CLASSIC OF THEM ALL.

By **CLARK COLLIS**
@CLARKCOLLIS

Illustration by
CUN SHI

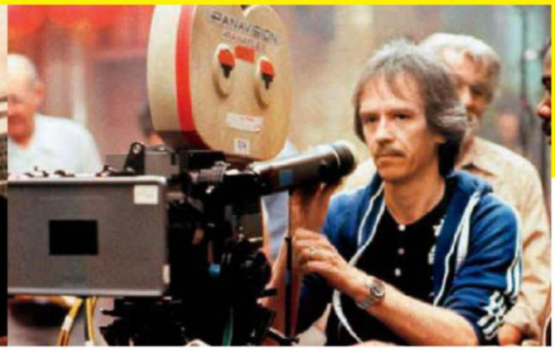
HAPLESS TRUCKER DRIVES A CARGO OF PIGS into San Francisco and is drawn into a supernatural fight with an ancient sorcerer. It's not the most obvious premise for a potential summer blockbuster, but that's precisely how 1986's *Big Trouble in Little China* was pitched to veteran filmmaker John Carpenter—as a big-budget adventure that could become the next *Raiders of the Lost Ark*. The *Halloween* director was just coming off of *Starman*, the acclaimed sci-fi love story that earned Jeff Bridges an Oscar nomination, and he was attracted to *Big Trouble*'s oddball mix of martial arts, monsters, and mysticism. Problem was, audiences weren't, and the film flopped. Spectacularly. ¶ Some members of the Chinese community were upset by what they regarded as the stereotypical depictions in a "white man's product" and by the fact that hardly any nonwhite female characters talk in the film (see sidebar). Other viewers were confounded by the off-kilter plot and a leading man—Kurt Russell's Jack Burton—who was more bumbling comic relief than conventional hero. Yet, like James Hong's villainous sorcerer David Lo Pan, *Big Trouble* has amassed an army of followers who delight in its sheer, nonsensical weirdness. Among their ranks? Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson, now set to star in a planned Fox remake. "When people come up [to me] and they say, '*Big Trouble*,' they have a look in their eye," Russell says. "It's like, 'I know what kind of person you are!' You know, when something is a cult classic, it's a cult classic for a reason."

East Meets Western

The script was penned by Gary Goldman and David Z. Weinstein and subsequently adapted by W.D. Richter, director of another bomb–turned–cult classic, 1984's The Adventures of Buckaroo Banzai Across the 8th Dimension. *Set in—and under—San Francisco's Chinatown district, the* Big Trouble *screenplay found Jack Burton teaming with a local restaurant owner to rescue the latter's fiancée from the evil David Lo Pan.*

JOHN CARPENTER (Director) I saw my first kung fu movie in 1973. It was—what the *hell* was the name of that thing?—*Five Fingers of Death*! It was truly an astonishing film. There was an innocence to these movies

TWENTIETH CENTURY FOX/EVERETT COLLECTION (4)



[CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT] Kurt Russell, Kim Cattrall, Suzee Pai, and Dennis Dun; Russell, Dun, and Victor Wong; director John Carpenter on set; Lo Pan henchmen the Three Storms (Peter Kwong, Carter Wong, and James Pax)

Was It Racist, or a Breakthrough?

THE FILM'S TREATMENT OF ITS CHINESE HEROES AND VILLAINS POLARIZED AUDIENCES

Big Trouble in Little China **is the rare Hollywood production to feature a largely Asian-American cast, a milestone that was certainly notable three decades ago and remains so today as the industry continues to grapple with diversity and representation. But not everyone appreciated how the characters were depicted: *Big Trouble* was accused of trafficking in racist stereotypes, and at one point during location filming in San Francisco, about two dozen protesters distributed leaflets targeting the movie for its "macho, smart-aleck white truck driver and his Chinese 'yes' man."**

"It's a white script written for a white audience," Henry Der, executive director of San Francisco's Chinese for Affirmative Action, told the *Los Angeles Times* in 1986.

According to Dennis Dun, director John Carpenter was open to changing things the actor regarded as racially insensitive. "When we are doing the fight in the end, in the script we were all wearing ninja costumes," Dun says. "I said, 'Ninja? I'm American!' I happened to have an Air Force jumpsuit. Carpenter said he liked it: 'Do it!'" Dun adds that the environment was supportive and warm. "You don't [usually] get to work on a film for two or three months as an Asian-American actor," he says. "You work a couple of days and you're off! I've been on sets where you go there and you feel like you're a second-class citizen. But on that set you felt like you were part of the team." —CLARK COLLIS

and a joyousness that I loved. I wanted to bring all that to *Big Trouble*. It had been a Western originally.

GARY GOLDMAN (Writer) Ours was about a cowboy in Chinatown in 1899. Instead of a truck driver, he worked providing meat to feed the Chinese workers who were building the railroad. Twentieth Century Fox tried to make it as a Western. Walter Hill [director of *The Long Riders* and *48 HRS.*] declined to do it. W.D. Richter came up, I presume, with the idea of making it contemporary.

W.D. RICHTER (Screenplay adapter) It struck me that it might be more vibrant if it were a contemporary movie. That was my pitch. I [understood] Jack Burton from the beginning—kind of a lovable loudmouth. I was thinking the other day that he's maybe a likable Donald Trump. You know, if he [Trump] didn't happen to become a billionaire because of his father, he might be a f---ing truck driver, driving pigs into San Francisco. He'd be unqualified for every challenge thrown in front of him, but he wouldn't get that!

CARPENTER Jack Burton is a guy who is a sidekick but doesn't know it. He's an idiot-blowhard. He's an American fool in a world that he doesn't understand.

Casting Up

Kurt Russell had worked with Carpenter on Escape From New York *and* The Thing. *The director cast Dennis Dun* (Year of the Dragon) *as restaurateur Wang Chi and model Suzee Pai as his fiancée, Miao Yin.* Blade Runner *actor James Hong portrayed the wizened Lo Pan—as well as a less ancient, incorporeal version of the*

The Monster Squad

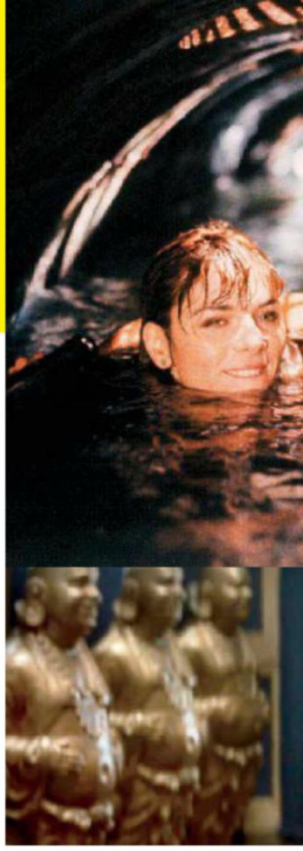
FANTASTIC BEASTS, YOU SAY? *BIG TROUBLE*'S GOT 'EM.

[TOP] Camera operator Ray Stella and effects technician Screaming Mad George with the guardian

It's not just humans wreaking havoc in *Big Trouble in Little China*. To fashion the bizarre array of monsters on screen, director John Carpenter hired Boss Film, a company founded by Oscar winner Richard Edlund (*Star Wars, Raiders of the Lost Ark*). The to-do list included conjuring a watchful aerial critter known as a guardian. "It was a huge, surrealistic ball of eyes," says *Big Trouble* creature creator Steve Johnson.

The team also built the half-dragon, half-fish Sewer Monster that devours one of Jack Burton and Wang Chi's compadres. To create the effect of the victim's legs kicking in the creature's mouth, Johnson turned to actor and triple amputee Noble Craig (*Poltergeist II*). "We had so much mechanism in there [the monster's mouth], we didn't have room for a full-size person," Johnson says. "So, I'm thinking, if we put Noble inside, and we put, like, a motorcycle helmet on his head, and we attach lightweight jointed legs to the motorcycle helmet, all Noble's got to do is shake his head around and it will look like the legs are kicking as the creature retracts back into his tunnel." See? So simple!

—CLARK COLLIS



[CLOCKWISE FROM BOTTOM] Russell; Cattrall and Russell; Dun, Donald Li, Russell, Cattrall, and Kate Burton; James Hong as David Lo Pan

ON SET: BOSS FILM PHOTOGRAPH BY VIRGIL MIRANO, COURTESY OF RICHARD EDLUND/TWENTIETH CENTURY FOX FILM CORPORATION/BOOM! STUDIOS

character. A young Kim Cattrall landed the role of plucky lawyer (and Jack Burton's love interest) Gracie Law, while future Scandal *star Kate Burton played Gracie's journalist friend, Margo. Other good guys were played by Donald Li and the late Victor Wong.*

KATE BURTON (Margo) Kurt Russell and Kim Cattrall and I were [virtually] the only non-Asian actors in the movie. I was aware at the time that it was pretty extraordinary.

KURT RUSSELL (Jack Burton) The real lead was Dennis Dun.

DENNIS DUN (Wang Chi) It was only my second film. I was very nervous. John Carpenter always said, "Don't worry, you're fine, just be a hero." [*Laughs*]

JAMES HONG (David Lo Pan) Sixty-three years I've been in the industry. For the first 50 years, I was averaging 10 feature or TV appearances every year. That schooled me for roles like Lo Pan, where I play multi-characters—the old man Lo Pan, the tall Mandarin with the headgear, and the young Lo Pan.

Kung Fu Fighting

As Jack and Wang search for Miao Yin, they're forced to battle foes ranging from wild monsters (see sidebar) to Lo Pan's goons, the Storms (Carter Wong, Peter Kwong, and James Pax)—but the action sequences presented certain challenges. Dun could claim only limited martial-arts experience; Russell had none. Burton and Cattrall got to join in the "fun" when they shot scenes set in the waterlogged channels beneath Chinatown. The movie, however, was filmed largely on the Fox lot in Los Angeles.

CARPENTER Dennis could fake martial arts really well.

DUN I had dabbled in it since I was a kid. The stunt guys would teach me things, and I'd practice between takes. I learned how to use the *tachi* sword, which is what I use in the film. Even though I didn't shoot a lot of that stuff until near the end [of production], I worked out every day.... I knew I had to make it seem like I was an expert!

CARPENTER Rather than try to make it look like our American Caucasian lead knew what he was doing with martial arts, we just went ahead and made him an idiot.

RUSSELL I couldn't *do* the chopsocky. I had to

CATTRALL AND RUSSELL: TWENTIETH CENTURY FOX/THE KOBAL COLLECTION; GROUP, WONG: TWENTIETH CENTURY FOX/EVERETT COLLECTION (2)

come up with ways to *not* be involved. So, I said to John, "How about if we come in here, and I'm all excited, and [shoot] the machine gun, and rocks fall on my face, and I'm out? Jack's out for the first two minutes of the fight." I was constantly finding things like that.... I *did* learn to drive an eighteen-wheeler. I forgot about that. It was pretty easy.

BURTON We spent a lot of time swimming underground. The biggest thing I remember is going to work, spending two hours in hair and makeup, and then having a bucket of water thrown over my head.

RUSSELL It's wet—you get *wet*. That's what it's like getting in water. You should try it sometime! [*Laughs*]

DUN *That's* a Kurt Russell answer.

RUSSELL One time, Kim and I kissed.... Then I noticed that the crew was smirking. I had lipstick all over my face. I said, "You know, I've always wondered about that. [In kissing scenes] how come that big red lipstick is always magically *not* there when the guy pulls back?" I looked at John, and I started laughing.... I said, "[Let's leave the lipstick on] at least for a couple of scenes!" And he said, "All right." I always admired John for that, because the audience is going to go, "What the f---?"

Little Box Office...

Big Trouble in Little China *received mixed reviews, with Roger Ebert complaining that the characters "often seem to exist only to fill up the foregrounds." Released on July 2, 1986, the film earned $11.1 million, one eighth of the gross of James Cameron's* Aliens, *which opened later that month.*

RUSSELL A lot of the people on the junket said, "How does it feel to be in a movie that you know is going to be a massive hit?" I would be falsely humble and say, "Well, hey, you never know." But inside I was going, "Yeah! I'm so happy!" And then it came out.

HONG The critics slashed it to pieces.

RUSSELL Without opening up old wounds, that picture really suffered a strange [marketing plan]. It was all on Jack Burton. It was all based on trying to theoretically get the audience interested in "Who is this guy?" And the answer was, "I've got no f---ing idea!"

GOLDMAN I have a different view of what happened. We gave them something like *Raiders of the Lost Ark* and *Romancing the Stone*, and they made the decision to turn it into something like *Buckaroo Banzai*. *Buckaroo Banzai* was a really interesting movie, and I like it a lot. But it was a bomb.

RUSSELL Fortunately for us, tapes and DVDs were just beginning to come out, and *Big Trouble in Little China* found its life anyway.

...Big Cult

Like Carpenter's The Thing*—now regarded as among the greatest horror movies ever made—* Big Trouble *slowly began to find fans via home video. By 2012 it was a full-fledged cult phenomenon. A "Gangnam Style" parody video called "Lo Pan Style" went viral. In 2015 the company Funko released a line of* Big Trouble *vinyl figures, and later this year BOOM! Studios will publish two books about the film,* The Official Making of "Big Trouble in Little China" *and* The Official Art of "Big Trouble in Little China."

STEVE JOHNSON (Creature creator) I think audiences have gotten a little bit more sophisticated since the movie was put out. I think it was difficult for people to categorize it back then. *What the hell is this thing?* But it's incredibly unique. Aside from certain Korean or Chinese films, I can't think of another American film that comes close to touching the unique quality of that film.

HONG I've been to autograph conventions, and this film—let's just say it this way: The production stills from this film have sold more than all the other ones combined, including *Blade Runner*, *Seinfeld*, and *Balls of Fury*, all those other ones. I just hope they don't ruin it with this sequel, or prequel, or whatever they're doing.

CARPENTER Oh, God help us, I don't know. We'll see.

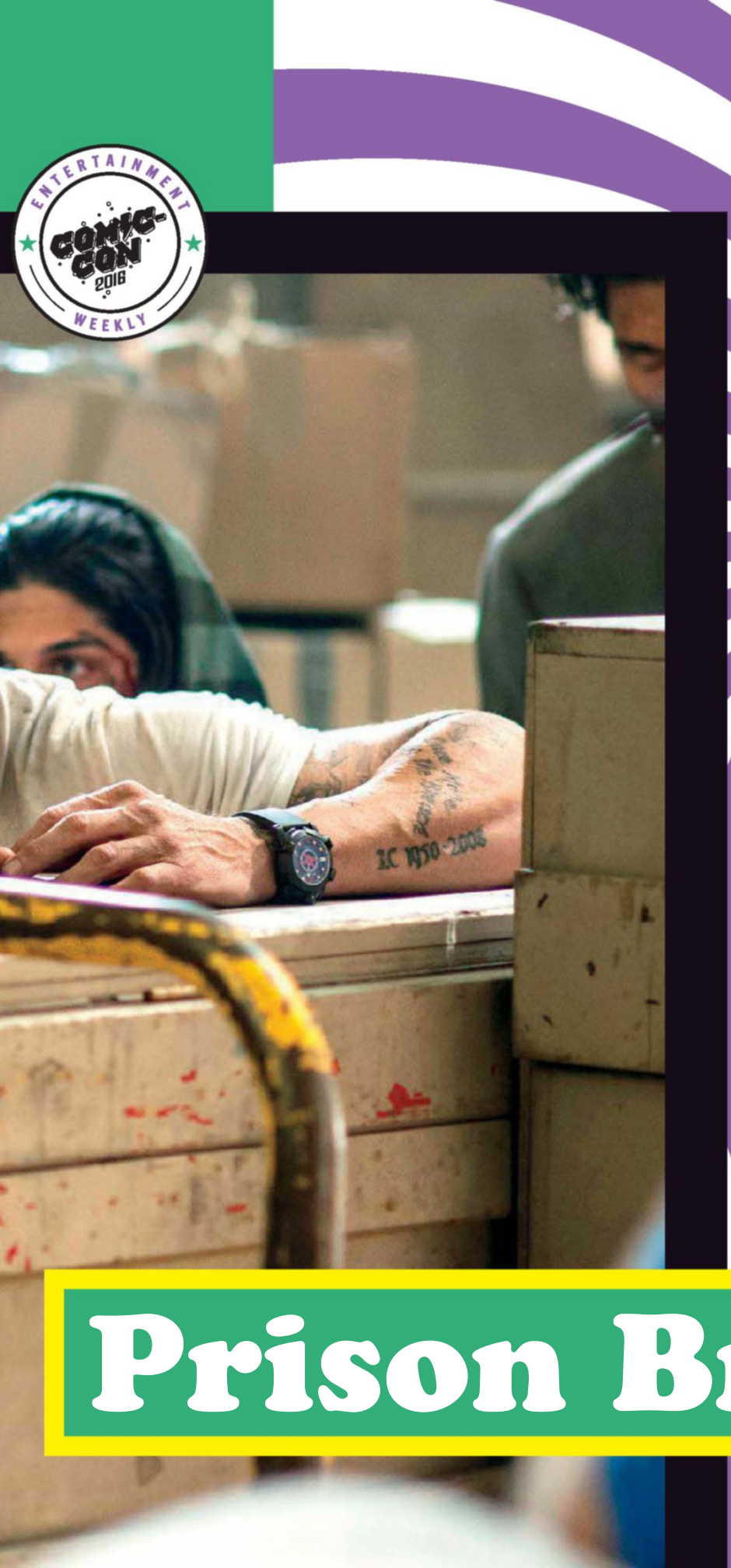
RUSSELL Dwayne Johnson as Jack Burton? I've got no problem with that. Movies are movies. You throw the dice and see what happens.... At the end of the day, all that ever matters is you make a movie that holds up. And John Carpenter's *Big Trouble in Little China* holds up. ◆

For an extended oral history, visit **ew.com/bigtrouble**

TV

Wentworth Miller and Dominic Purcell

TV lettering by **TODD KLEIN**



Prison Break

Walking onto the set of *Prison Break* is like stepping into a war zone. A monolithic steel door opens to the prison yard at Ogygia, a penitentiary in Yemen that makes Fox River look like the Four Seasons. A thick layer of dirt covers the rocky pavement of the yard. Guard towers loom overhead, and rusted bars line the water-stained walls that separate the inmates from the outside world. In reality, the outside world isn't Yemen but Vancouver, where *Prison Break* is in its final weeks of shooting its nine-episode revival that resurrects Michael Scofield (Wentworth Miller) seven years after his brother, Lincoln Burrows (Dominic Purcell), and wife, Sara Tancredi (Sarah Wayne Callies), thought him dead. ¶ For the past four years, the cold and damp solitary confinement at Ogygia has been home to Michael, now known as infamous terrorist Kaniel Outis. The tattooed genius we knew and loved died

[By] **NATALIE ABRAMS**

STARRING
WENTWORTH MILLER, DOMINIC PURCELL, SARAH WAYNE CALLIES

NETWORK
FOX

PREMIERE DATE
SPRING
/ 2017

[BELOW] Dominic Purcell and Sarah Wayne Callies

[RIGHT] Robert Knepper

from a brain tumor, or so his family—and viewers who tuned in to the 2009 finale of *Prison Break*—were led to believe. In truth, much like the actor who portrays him, Michael's been pulled back into the business of breaking out of prison. And business, as they say, is booming.

But how did Michael find himself in a *Midnight Express*-esque hellscape instead of six feet under? For the answer to that, you'll have to time-travel back to 2014, when actors Miller and Purcell reunited on the set of *The Flash* as Captain Cold and Heat Wave after not seeing each other for five years. "We started chatting and reminiscing," Miller says. "Out of that back-and-forth came this idea: 'What if we revisited Michael and Lincoln from *Prison Break*? Would Fox even be interested?' It turns out they were." The timing was fortuitous as Fox was already working on reboots for *The X-Files* and *24*.

The next key move was getting *Prison Break* creator Paul Scheuring to come on board, which happened relatively fast after he met with Miller and saw his enthusiasm for a revival. "On some level, that break that we had of six to seven years in real life allowed Wentworth to appreciate what he had with Michael Scofield," Scheuring says. "He said he wanted to inhabit it for a few more episodes. I said, 'Look, nobody wants to revive this thing for multiple seasons and that whole long slog, but if we can tell a concise, closed-ended story in 9 or 10 episodes, I'd be amenable to that.'"

With that long break in mind, it was Scheuring who came up with the idea to use one of the most famous epics in history to revive the beloved series. "It's ultimately a story about somebody coming back to life," Scheuring says. "And the emotional heart of it is that he left behind a wife and a son he's never seen before. [I thought] 'Hey, wait, isn't that *The Odyssey*?'" And Scheuring took his inspiration literally: In both tales, the heroes use the assumed named Outis and resurface after seven years in the foreign land of Ogygia, attempting to get home.

While reuniting the *Prison Break* team wasn't met with *Odyssey*-level obstacles, there was certainly trepidation among the cast. Callies says she was probably the last actor to sign on. The *Walking Dead* alum—who is now starring on USA's *Colony*—wanted to make sure the revival wasn't just about "a bunch of actors and executive producers who want to cash some old checks," she says. "My first thought was, it better be good." Miller concurs: "My only hesitation was if we're going to do this, let's do it right. There are so many fans out there who have such an appreciation for the original. If we're going to try and add to the existing mythology, it had better hold up."

Once the trio was in place, shooting began in early April, and all fears immediately evaporated on day one. "There've been divorces, marriages, coming-outs, babies, career changes, and yet the things about these people remain essential," Callies says. "It was an emotional day. Our director came up to me and was like, 'You have to stop crying. Sara is not losing her s--- in this moment.' I was like, 'Okay, I'm trying. This is actually not an acting choice.'"

Arguably, though, the most difficult chapter in the return of *Prison Break* belongs to Purcell, who plops himself down to be interviewed and promptly smacks the back of his scarred head on a low-hanging cabinet. "My head can take anything," the 46-year-old says in his gravelly tone. He's not kidding: On *Prison Break*'s Moroccan set in late May, he suffered a broken nose and several deep cuts to his head when an iron bar dropped on his face during the shooting of this season's escape.

Looking back roughly two weeks later, Purcell says he wasn't scared, as he shows off gory photos of the bloody fissures lining his skull. "I thought this could be the day that I actually die," he recalls, praising girlfriend AnnaLynne McCord for jumping into action before he was helicoptered out of the remote shooting location to Casablanca, where a plastic surgeon told the actor his thick skin

Michael has walked a dark road. In the years since we last saw him, he's been a part of some deep, dark government-funded plots, and that's left a mark on him."

—WENTWORTH MILLER

(PREVIOUS PAGE AND THIS PAGE) ED ARAQUEL/FOX (3)

DEEP CUT *The Prison Break revival enlisted around 200 extras in Vancouver and Morocco for scenes in and around the derelict Yemeni*

and strong build likely saved his life. "I may be a genetic freak, I suppose," he says. "I dodged a lot of bullets that day."

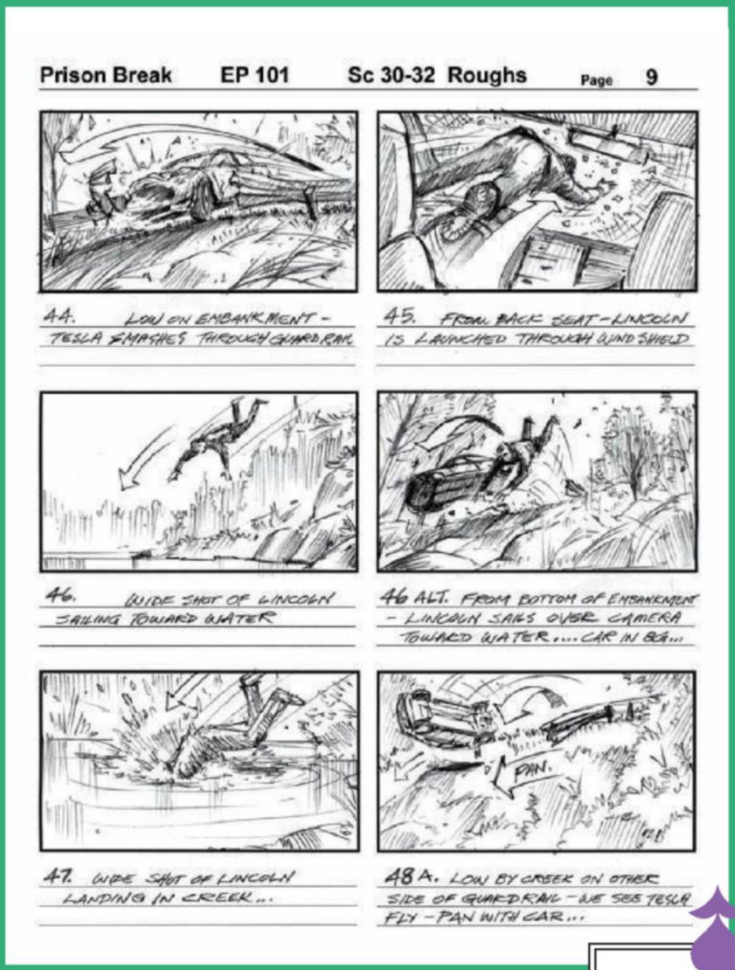
In this prison break, it's Lincoln Burrows who has to step up in a major way. After spilling his suspicions about Michael's fate to Sara (who has a new husband, played by *Royal Pains*' Mark Feuerstein), Lincoln faces new threats in the form of villains Van Gogh (Steve Mouzakis) and A&W (Marina Benedict) even before he sets off for Yemen to follow a lead about his brother. "If people start finding out that Michael is still alive, then it puts their larger secret agenda at risk," Scheuring teases. "They'll kill anybody that finds out." That's par for the course for Lincoln, who's always getting himself into trouble, but now he's much more aware of the consequences of his actions. That's why he'll rely on the help of old friends and enemies like former Fox River inmates T-Bag (Robert Knepper), C-Note (Rockmond Dunbar), and Sucre (Amaury Nolasco), as well as Kellerman (Paul Adelstein).

While the offscreen dynamic between Purcell and Miller—who have costarred together on *DC's Legends of Tomorrow* since their *Flash* reunion—has only grown, on screen their relationship has been challenged. Without the guiding force and conscience of his brother, Lincoln has lost his way. "There's a resentment, but overwhelming joy that his brother's alive," Purcell says. "The weight of the world has been on both their shoulders since we last saw them, so it's turned them into hardened, tragic figures."

That's especially true for Michael, who is not the same man we remember, either. "He's walked a dark road," Miller says. "In the years since we last saw him, he's been a part of some deep, dark government-funded plots, and that's left a mark on him. He is tortured by some of the things that he's seen and that he's participated in." (He also has new ink: After losing his famous tattoos in the final season, he sports a new set on his lower arms and hands that prove crucial to this mission.) Michael's been branded a terrorist with ties to ISIS, but ISIS isn't the show's only big bad. Remember, Odysseus runs afoul of a Cyclops and Poseidon, to name a couple of nemeses, and so will Michael. "At the end of the day, this is not a story about 'We've got to stop ISIS,'" Scheuring says. "It just happens to be that Michael has gotten mixed up with the worst possible antagonists, and they become an obstacle to get past."

With the series shooting 14-hour days, six-day weeks, and multiple episodes at the same time, "I'm finding it challenging—maybe that's being 43 and not 33," Miller says with a laugh. The cast may have aged, but the revival is going back to its roots, and Purcell says the new episodes are in keeping with the original tone. "The first season was just classic, beautiful storytelling," he says, before pointing out one significant difference in the revival: A nine-episode format calls for faster-paced storytelling. Each ep is also full of Easter eggs for longtime viewers, but the hope is to gain new viewers, too. "It's possible to watch the reboot not having seen the original and enjoy it for what it is," Miller says. "But the viewing pleasure will certainly be deepened if you're familiar with the [original]."

Should the revival prove successful, there's already talk of a another season, with rumors that the brothers would be China-bound—if they both survive. "I feel like there's more story there, and now we're talking about multiple generations," Miller pitches. "Breaking my grandkid out of prison—one last break!"



SKETCHY CIRCUMSTANCES

In an exclusive sneak peek at the storyboard of a car chase from the premiere, Lincoln Burrows (Dominic Purcell) is run off the road by new villains Van Gogh (Steve Mouzakis) and A&W (Marina Benedict) after spilling his suspicions about his brother's fate to Sara (Sarah Wayne Callies).

MARCUS ENDEAN

prison that houses **Michael Scofield.** •

Teen Wolf

STARRING
TYLER POSEY, DYLAN O'BRIEN, HOLLAND RODEN

NETWORK
MTV

PREMIERE DATE
FALL / 2016

During *Teen Wolf*'s five seasons, Scott (Tyler Posey) and his pack have fought alphas, Oni, the Beast, and more. But in season 6, they're up against the Ghost Riders, a group of phantom cowboy types who get stuck in Beacon Hills. Pulling from existing mythology, showrunner Jeff Davis says, "The idea is that the Wild Hunt passes through your town, and if you see the Ghost Riders, they'll take you with them and make you part of the hunt." Fortunately, Stiles will be around to help—despite actor Dylan O'Brien's on-set *Maze Runner* injury. "Stiles is a big part of the season because a lot of this season's mystery revolves around him," says Davis. "We're going to see just what Stiles' friendship means to Scott, Lydia, and Malia." And according to Posey, Scott and Stiles have mended their friendship and are back to being "very in love with each other." —SAMANTHA HIGHFILL

DEEP CUT *After Tyler Posey got a tattoo during hiatus in 2013, it was worked into the show and became the symbol of Scott's pack in season 5.*

Ghost Riders

[BELOW]
Dylan O' Brien

TEEN WOLF: MTV (2); THE WALKING DEAD: GENE PAGE/AMC

Season 6 includes Teen Wolf*'s 100th ep.*

THE WALKING DEAD

STARRING
ANDREW LINCOLN, DANAI GURIRA, NORMAN REEDUS, JEFFREY DEAN MORGAN

NETWORK
AMC

PREMIERE DATE
October
/ 2016

MANY FANS MAY HAVE BEEN less than enthusiastic about having to wait six months to find out who was on the receiving end of Negan's (Jeffrey Dean Morgan) baseball bat, but here's a bit of good news: Executive producer Greg Nicotero—who directed both the season 6 finale and the season 7 premiere—promises the wait will end soon. "Yes, who was at the receiving end of Negan's bat will be revealed in the first episode," he confirms.

Nicotero also notes that whoever does survive the lineup of death had better get used to a lot of chatter mixed with the splatter. "Negan is that kind of guy," says Nicotero. "He's the kind of guy who imagines himself on stage at a high school production, and he loves every second of it. So I don't really see a lot of quiet, contemplative moments with Negan. With Negan, it's really going to be about him gesticulating and relishing the sound of his own voice while he commands the stage in front of whoever's alive."

Of course, whenever people die, new characters arrive to fill the void, and Nicotero teases, "I think it's safe to say that we're going to get a chance to meet a lot of new people." Whether any of those people have pet tigers—where art thou, Ezekiel from the comic books?—remains to be seen. —DALTON ROSS

Jeffrey Dean Morgan

ENTERTAINMENT WEEKLY COMIC-CON 2016

Marv

Lee Majors and Bruce Campbell

ASH VS EVIL DEAD

STARRING
BRUCE CAMPBELL, DANA DELORENZO, RAY SANTIAGO

NETWORK
STARZ

PREMIERE DATE
October / 2016

There's good and bad news for Bruce Campbell's ghoul-battling Ash Williams in season 2 of the horror comedy *Ash vs Evil Dead*. The bad? A lot of awful stuff happens. The good? Much of it happens to Ash's protégé Pablo (Ray Santiago) instead. "Pablo's got a crazy journey this year," chuckles Campbell. "The stuff he goes through makes my life seem easy." Ash starts the season enjoying the good life in Jacksonville, Fla. "He's having keggers and hanging with chicks," says Campbell. "What could possibly go wrong?" So much does, of course, and it forces Pablo, Kelly (Dana DeLorenzo), and Ash to head to the latter's hometown of Elk Grove, Mich., where they meet Ash's father—played by *The Six Million Dollar Man*'s Lee Majors—and a childhood friend played by *Evil Dead* regular Ted Raimi. "We've added Ted Raimi to the cast, which is always [an] imperative for me," deadpans Campbell. "I need someone I can annoy and harass."
—CLARK COLLIS

MARVEL'S LUKE CAGE: MYLES ARONOWITZ/NETFLIX; ASH VS EVIL DEAD: STARZ ENTERTAINMENT, LLC

Mike Colter and Frankie Faison

el's Luke Cage

At the start of his solo series, set after the events of *Jessica Jones*, Luke Cage (Mike Colter) isn't looking to save the world. He's mostly a regular guy (with unbreakable skin) trying to find a job. When he lands steady pay, it's not for busting baddies for the Avengers part-time; he's sweeping up hair at a barbershop owned by Pop (Frankie Faison). Still reeling from the murder of his wife, Reva, the indestructible hero otherwise known as Power Man seeks refuge in his childhood home in Harlem with no intention of fighting crime. "Luke still doesn't think he's a hero," Colter says. "He's just trying to find a day job and pay some bills, but of course things don't happen that way." Luke finds himself having to protect the neighborhood he loves, and Harlem as it is today factors heavily into the series. "When you go to Harlem, you do expect to see a lot of different characters, specifically African-Americans, so we're definitely going to have that feel there," Colter says. "It's the Harlem of 2016, so it's a very current Harlem. We have a multicultural cast. It's socially relevant, and I think that's not an accident." —KEVIN P. SULLIVAN

STARRING MIKE COLTER, MAHERSHALA ALI, SIMONE MISSICK	**DEBUT DATE** September 30 / 2016
NETWORK NETFLIX	

THE MAN in the HIGH CASTLE

STARRING LUKE KLEINTANK, ALEXA DAVALOS, BELLA HEATHCOTE
NETWORK AMAZON
PREMIERE DATE FALL / 2016

***WILLKOMMEN* TO BERLIN, JOE (LUKE KLEINTANK)!** In the second season of Amazon's thriller about life after the Axis powers' World War II victory, the SS agent winds up in the flourishing German capital, and he's lucky to make it overseas. Following the chaos in San Francisco, new threats—including a violent West Coast Resistance movement—emerge, but Joe escapes in time to get a taste of what it's like to be on the right side of (alternate) history. "Joe becomes tempted by power," Kleintank teases. "He gets seduced by the Nazi world." ¶ Also seductive: his tour guide into the inner circle, Nicole Dormer (*The Neon Demon*'s Bella Heathcote), a documentary filmmaker he meets at a high-society party. "She's definitely the pursuer," Heathcote says. "She sees something in him she doesn't see in other guys." To prepare for the part, the Aussie actress read the memoir of Nazi propagandist and film director Leni Riefenstahl—and brushed up on her German. "My German teacher was the first person I emailed," Heathcote recalls, laughing. "She's really happy I got the role." Her history teacher, on the other hand, would have been useless. —SHIRLEY LI

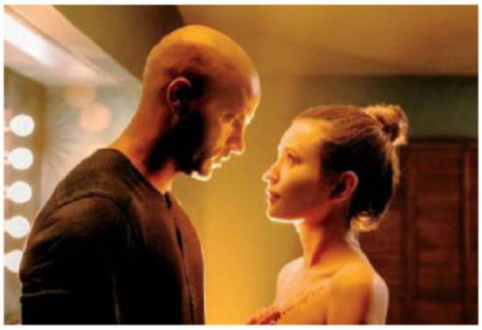
Bella Heathcote and Luke Kleintank

THE MAN IN THE HIGH CASTLE: AMAZON PRIME VIDEO

DEEP CUT *Exec producer* **Bryan Fuller** *describes the show to friends as* "Clash of the Titans *by way of* The Grifters." • Hannibal *reunion!*

PAGE # 70

[LEFT] Bruce Langley
[BELOW] Ricky Whittle and Emily Browning



STARZ ENTERTAINMENT, LLC (2)

STARRING	DEBUT DATE
RICKY WHITTLE, IAN McSHANE, EMILY BROWNING	EARLY / 2017
NETWORK	
STARZ	

There's at least one person who appreciates all the time you spend on the internet. Meet Technical Boy, one of a new class of gods fighting for humanity's worship on Starz's *American Gods*, based on Neil Gaiman's 2001 novel. The book imagines Technical Boy as something of a pimply *Matrix* fanboy, but technology has changed in 15 years—so meet the new devilishly stylish deity (played by Bruce Langley) who feeds off your attention to technology. "We needed to establish a frame of reference for his aesthetic, and [director/EP] David Slade was the first one to say 'Commodore 64,'" explains co-showrunner Bryan Fuller. "That will mean more to the audience once they understand why that era of technology is so informative for his story." But Technical Boy is just one of several antagonistic forces trying to earn the loyalty of Shadow (Ricky Whittle), a tenacious ex-convict sought by three parties: the deplorable new gods, the noble old gods, and the spirit of his late wife, Laura (Emily Browning), who dies in a car crash but strives to win back her husband upon being reanimated—well, technically speaking, rebooted.
—MARC SNETIKER

Fuller has recruited **Gillian Anderson** *to play Media, a goddess who takes the form of Lucille Ball, Marilyn Monroe, and other icons.*

LETTERING BY **TODD KLEIN**

Q+A

TED DAN KRISTEN

ENTERTAINMENT WEEKLY COMIC-CON 2016

TWO OF OUR OUR ALL-TIME FAVORITES TEAM UP ON NBC'S ***THE GOOD PLACE***, THIS FALL'S

Ted Danson and Kristen Bell would like to send you to comedy heaven: On NBC's *The Good Place* (debuts Sept. 19)—created by *Parks and Recreation* overlord Michael Schur—Bell stars as a not-so-nice woman who is erroneously admitted into the afterlife paradise, where Danson serves as architect of the neighborhood in which she is assigned to live. Before the pair greet the masses at Comic-Con, let's get in *Good* with them.

Describe your chemistry in, say, six words or less.

KRISTEN BELL Honest...sweaty...giggly... irreplaceable. Did you say six words or less? Can I use four?

TED DANSON Truthfully, my word was going to be "giggly" because we literally giggle each time we see each other. "Awed." I am awed by her talent and effortlessness in front of the camera. Did you do "adoration"? Because I have a

[RIGHT] On The Good Place

SON and BELL

GODLIEST COMEDY. [By] DAN SNIERSON

huge amount of adoration. And you have to go with "friend."

BELL "Effortless" we should throw in there. This might come as a shock to America but it's very easy to be friends with Ted Danson. He is one of the most likable people on the planet.

DANSON Okay, but you could have taken my name out of that sentence and put Kristen's in, so yeah, it's mutual. Let's go with "mutual."

What can viewers expect from your version of the afterlife?

DANSON I would say it is *Alice in Wonderland*-like. It is truly surprising and definitely has an edge.

BELL Some things are extremely unexpected, but *The Good Place* makes a lot of thoughtful comments about what it means to be human.

DANSON It really is about what it means to be good and what it means to be bad.

What's one weird thing about the afterlife that you learned?

BELL There are no hangovers. In the pilot episode, my character has 32 glasses of wine and no hangover.

DANSON As architect of this neighborhood, I was surprised that human beings loved frozen yogurt as much as they do.

Ted, you're a Comic-Con newbie. What's the intimidation factor heading in?

DANSON I've heard peripherally about it, so my intimidation level is *pretty, pretty* high. It's hip, young nerds gathering together, and it scares me.

BELL There's no reason to be intimidated. I personally believe the best people in the world go to Comic-Con. It's the one place in the world where trolls don't exist. Comic-Con fans love the stories so much, and they're excited, but at the same time they're wildly intelligent and pick apart the stories and ask questions and really keep your work as a storyteller on point. And don't worry, Ted, I got you a Chewbacca costume, so if we wander the floor, we'll be totally concealed.

Any other tips, Kristen?

BELL I'm not gonna lie, Ted. I normally don't like any sort of royal treatment, but I will say: Don't go to the bathroom by yourself. Because you might never get out. Any place is up for grabs to have a full-on conversation about your character.

DANSON Okay, so don't hydrate before you go.

DANSON AND BELL: ROBERT TRACHTENBERG/NBC; *THE GOOD PLACE*: JUSTIN LUBIN/NBC; *DIRK GENTLY*: BETTINA STRAUSS/BBC AMERICA

Elijah Wood and Samuel Barnett

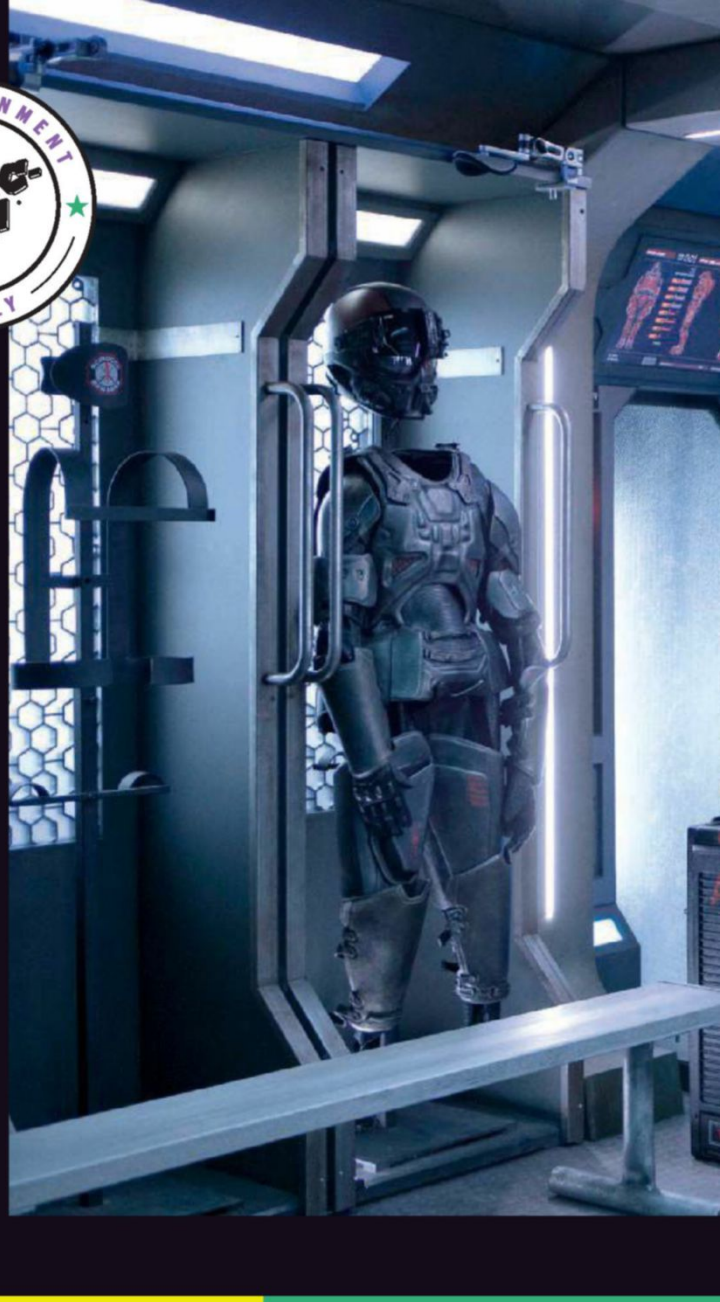
DIRK GENTLY

STARRING ELIJAH WOOD, SAMUEL BARNETT

NETWORK BBC AMERICA

DEBUT DATE October 22 / 2016

Based on a pair of books by late sci-fi and fantasy author Douglas Adams (*The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*), this series from *Chronicle* and *American Ultra* screenwriter Max Landis tells the story of Dirk Gently (*Jupiter Ascending*'s Samuel Barnett), a detective with a strange methodology. "He believes that everything is connected and just by living his life, wandering from place to place, he will be able to solve any mystery put in front of him," says Landis, who is writing and exec-producing the series with showrunner Robert Cooper (*Stargate Atlantis*). Elijah Wood costars as Dirk's sort-of sidekick, Todd. "Todd's an interesting character," says Landis. "He's honestly not gung ho about helping Dirk do anything, much less be his assistant." Other players include a billionaire's beautiful security officer, Farah Black (Jade Eshete), and the Rowdy 3, a group of anarchist vampires. "This show is crazy!" says Landis. We're getting that impression. —CLARK COLLIS



MR. ROBOT

STARRING
RAMI MALEK, CHRISTIAN SLATER

NETWORK
USA

DATE & TIME
WEDNESDAYS, 10 PM

At the start of season 2, hacker hero Elliot Alderson (Rami Malek) is in a bad place, to say the least. The IT worker-turned-revolutionary can no longer trust the computer inside his head, so he's gone off the grid completely rather than risk the wrath of his alter ego, who has resorted to shooting Elliot repeatedly. (Don't worry, the bullets are psychological!) Hidden away in his mother's town house in Queens, Elliot meets Ray (*The Office*'s Craig Robinson), who is a little too eager to be friends but may offer some counsel in the turbulent days after the Five/Nine hack...or he may be a very bad dude. Details on Ray's true nature—like most other facts about the rest of season 2—are fiercely protected. "Ray provides Elliot with some insight that I may have otherwise been lacking," Malek says. "He becomes somewhat of a mentor for Elliot and offers some words of wisdom that Elliot ends up utilizing. Whether or not he needs that, it becomes a presence that he can't really escape." Sounds like Elliot may have more than Mr. Robot to worry about. —KEVIN P. SULLIVAN

Craig Robinson and Rami Malek

FEAR the WALKING DEAD

The Expanse

STARRING
STEVEN STRAIT, THOMAS JANE, SHOHREH AGHDASHLOO, FRANKIE ADAMS, DOMINIQUE TIPPER

NETWORK
SYFY

PREMIERE DATE
January / 2017

Frankie Adams

Having been described as *Game of Thrones* in space, the adaptation of James S.A. Corey's book series about planets fighting over control of an ancient alien bio-weapon returns in season 2 with fan-favorite Martian Marine Roberta "Bobbie" Draper (Frankie Adams) making the leap from page to screen in the very first scene. Although, as showrunner Naren Shankar explains, bringing Bobbie to life presented some casting challenges for the team. "When you ask a casting director to find a six-foot-plus half-Polynesian, the response is usually one of stunned silence, like, 'Really?' And we were like, 'Yeah, really!' We've been very conscious about maintaining the ethnic identity of the characters in the book as much as humanly possible, and we were really intent on doing that with Bobbie." And intent became reality when they found actress Frankie Adams. "She's a professional boxer, as well as a model, and so she had the physicality and a very interesting, unusual face you rarely see on television," says Shankar. —DALTON ROSS

STARRING
KIM DICKENS, CLIFF CURTIS, FRANK DILLANE, ALYCIA DEBNAM-CAREY, COLMAN DOMINGO

NETWORK
AMC

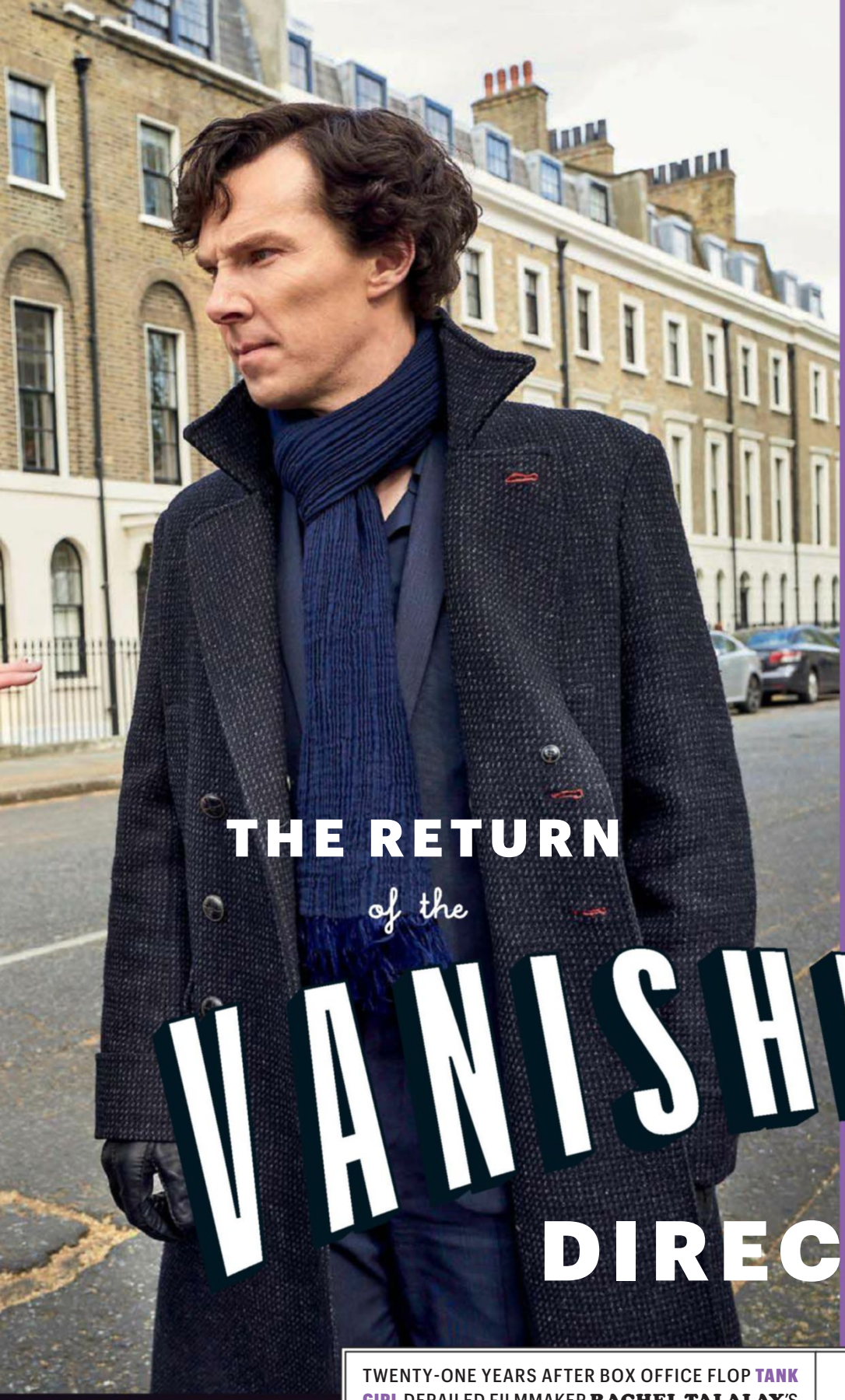
PREMIERE DATE
August 21 / 2016

AS BAD AS THE ZOMBIE APOCALYPSE has been—and it hasn't exactly been unicorns and rainbows—at least the survivors of *Fear the Walking Dead* had each other. Until now. After the Mexican compound was blown to smithereens in the midseason finale, the group scattered. "The big question for the back half [of season 2] is when and how the family will reunite," says showrunner Dave Erickson. "The interesting thing will be watching them splinter off in multiple directions and seeing how each group can survive." As for Nick (Frank Dillane), who now enjoys walking among the dead in his spare time, "he's going to set out to find people who are more like-minded and will give him some clues," says Erickson. "And then it falls into the be-careful-what-you-wish-for category. When he actually gets to a place with some degree of spiritual comfort for him, it's not going to last very long." News flash: It never does. —DALTON ROSS

Frank Dillane

MR. ROBOT: PETER KRAMER/USA NETWORK; *THE EXPANSE*: RAFY/SYFY; *FEAR THE WALKING DEAD*: RICHARD FOREMAN, JR/AMC

Rachel Talalay and Benedict Cumberbatch on the set of the new season of *Sherlock*



THE RETURN of the VANISHING DIRECTOR

TWENTY-ONE YEARS AFTER BOX OFFICE FLOP **TANK GIRL** DERAILED FILMMAKER **RACHEL TALALAY**'S CAREER, SHE'S BACK, DIRECTING **SHERLOCK**, **THE FLASH**, AND **DOCTOR WHO**. HER NEXT MISSION? TO EXTERMINATE HOLLYWOOD'S GLASS CEILING.

[By]
CLARK COLLIS

It's been ALMOST THREE

MONTHS SINCE RACHEL TALALAY BEGAN SHOOTING THE PREMIERE OF the new season of *Sherlock*, and even now she is still on a high from working with Benedict Cumberbatch and Martin Freeman on the beloved PBS *Masterpiece* sleuth series. "The fact that it takes three years to get them together long enough to be on the series and then be invited to direct it is phenomenal," she says. "It's a tremendous experience on every level."

It's just the kind of experience Hollywood told the 57-year-old she'd never get. Although the original, unaired *Sherlock* pilot was directed by a woman—Coky Giedroyc—Talalay is the first to oversee a full episode of the series, and she describes the gig as "a *massive* feather in my cap." In actuality, though, it's the latest of several. Over the past few years, this self-confessed nerd has directed *The Flash*, *DC's Legends of Tomorrow*, and four episodes of *Doctor Who*, including last year's acclaimed "Heaven Sent," basically a solo showcase for star Peter Capaldi. "She will get the best out of any scene—technically, dramatically, visually, and emotionally. She excels at getting beauty and drama to flourish in our punishing schedules," says Capaldi.

The director's achievements are doubly impressive given her history. In the early '90s she was a Hollywood up-and-comer. Then she made *Tank Girl*, a postapocalyptic action-comedy with a feminist streak as wide as the armored vehicle driven by Lori Petty's titular character. Released in 1995, the movie recouped just $4 million of its $25 million budget. Talalay admits such a commercial failure would be a black mark on anyone's résumé but believes the fact that she hasn't made a major studio film since has more to do with her gender than her talents. "So many men fail and then get their next opportunity," says Talalay. "I didn't." She claims this wasn't the first time her gender adversely affected her career, and her dream of making another big Hollywood movie could remain just that at a time when around 88 percent of film directors are still men. "[Women] can do anything and everything," says Talalay. "It's *crazy* that the statistics are so terrible."

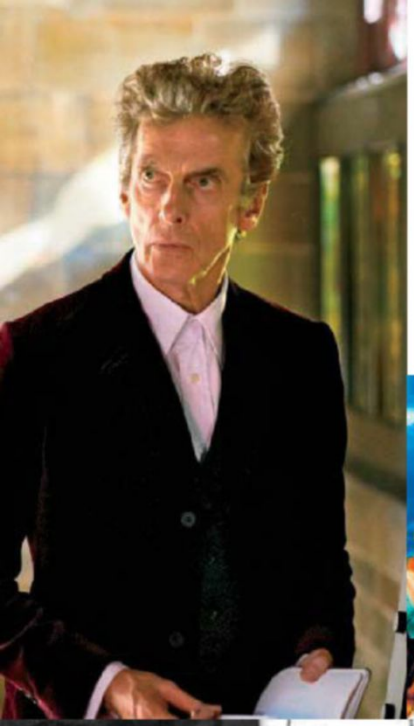
Born in Chicago and raised in Baltimore, Talalay spent long spells of her teenage years in the U.K. thanks to the peripatetic career of her father, renowned cancer researcher Paul Talalay. While in Britain she embarked on what would prove to be an enduring obsession with *Doctor Who*. Later, as a mathematics student at Yale, Talalay was offered a job at IBM but instead went to work as a production assistant on *Polyester*, the 1981 cult classic by John Waters, who became a mentor. ("She was thrown into a world of complete lunacy that I don't think Yale had prepared her for," Waters recounts. "It was very much an independent movie. The neighbors were calling the police, trying to get rid of us. But she handled it really well.") Soon after, Talalay got a job as an accountant at New Line Cinema, which was about to break into the big time with Wes Craven's 1984 horror classic *A Nightmare on Elm Street*. The problem? Talalay didn't know anything about accounting. "They said, 'Can you do it?'" she recalls. "I said, 'Yeah, sure.' I just figured it out."

Talalay swiftly rose through the New Line ranks, ultimately becoming a producer on 1988's *A Nightmare on Elm Street 4* before reteaming with Waters on 1988's *Hairspray* and 1990's *Cry-Baby*. (The director also officiated Talalay's wedding to British film producer Rupert Harvey, with whom she has two daughters.)

Talalay made her directorial debut with 1991's *Freddy's Dead: The Final Nightmare*, the sixth movie in the franchise. The film grossed an impressive $35 million but did not prove to be the career launchpad she expected. "Coming off the *Nightmare on Elm Street* films, the three directors before me all went on to huge action films," she says. "I wasn't afforded the same opportunity and I feel that was absolutely to do with my gender." In fact, the director of the fourth Freddy movie, Renny Harlin, went on to direct the lavishly budgeted *Die Hard 2*, while her immediate predecessor in the director's chair, Stephen Hopkins, was hired

> "I WASN'T AFFORDED THE SAME **OPPORTUNITY** AND I FEEL THAT WAS ABSOLUTELY TO DO WITH MY **GENDER**."
> —RACHEL TALALAY

(PREVIOUS SPREAD) ROBERT VIGLASKY/HARTSWOOD FILMS 2016



[CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT] **Peter Capaldi on *Doctor Who*; *Tank Girl*; Talalay (left) on the set of *Freddy's Dead: The Final Nightmare* with Lisa Zane**

to make *Predator 2*. Talalay's next film, meanwhile, was the obscure sci-fi thriller *Ghost in the Machine*.

In the absence of big-studio offers, Talalay took destiny into her own hands by optioning Jamie Hewlett and Alan Martin's ultrahip comic *Tank Girl*—which follows the adventures of a boozy, buzz-cut, no-crap-taking outlaw—and selling it to United Artists. While the shoot was tough, her real problems began when the studio excised a large amount of footage, including one scene that showed off Tank Girl's collection of dildos. "I feel [*Tank Girl*'s] the precursor to *Deadpool*," says Talalay. "We were really ahead of our time." But the film's failure torpedoed her career. "Utterly, completely in Hollywood jail," she says.

Talalay relocated to the U.K., where she produced the children's film *The Borrowers* and found work as a TV director. By the start of the aughts, she was back in the States, paying the bills, if not necessarily satisfying her soul, by directing shows like *Ally McBeal* and *Cold Case*, while discovering she'd lost out on jobs because certain casts and crews didn't "like" women directors. "That was a very common thing I heard from my agents," she says.

The roots of Talalay's current renaissance date back to 2005 and the BBC's revival of the long-mothballed *Doctor Who*. "The minute I watched it, I called my U.K. agent and said, 'I need to do this show,'" she recalls. Talalay met with *Who* producers on a couple of occasions, but to no avail. In between, she sharpened her fantasy and sci-fi chops, directing episodes of *Supernatural* and Syfy's *Haven*. Finally, as the *Who* team was gearing up to shoot the 2014 season, Talalay put together a reel of visual F/X and action scenes she had directed and sent it to executive producer Brian Minchin. Impressed, Minchin and his fellow EP, head writer Steven Moffat, hired her to direct the two-part season finale. "The first thing they do is say, 'Would you like to go on the TARDIS?'" Talalay told EW at the time. "You're like, 'Are you kidding me?'"

Moffat, who is also a co-creator of *Sherlock*, was helpful to Talalay when it came to getting the gig for its season premiere, too. Further helping her cause? She had directed *Sherlock*'s other creator, the Mycroft-playing Mark Gatiss, in a 2006 TV-movie version of *The Wind in the Willows*. Like the *Elm Street* franchise, *Sherlock* has proved a career-enhancing showcase for many of its directors, but Talalay is aware that this once again may not apply to her. When not in the TARDIS or at 221B Baker Street, the director can be found at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver, where she teaches film. In June, Talalay was honored as Woman of the Year at the Women in Film + Television Vancouver awards. In her speech, she recalled meeting with her agents to talk about post-*Sherlock* ambitions: "They said, 'Yes, you have done *Sherlock*. Yeah, the other *Sherlock* directors have all been offered pilots and features off the back of it. But remember, you are a woman.'" Though she points out that her reps were simply being realistic, Talalay admits she was crushed.

Despite (or because of) it all, Talalay is determinedly upbeat about securing a future for herself and for women filmmakers in general. Last year, she directed *On the Farm*, the true-life story of a Vancouver serial killer and the marginalized women he murdered and terrorized. She made the film for Canadian TV, but it's beginning to play festivals, and she hopes it will be distributed theatrically. "I'm still fighting," Talalay says. "I'm on a mission with Marvel to get them to give me one of their big films—I would really love to do *She-Hulk*. I really, *really* want to direct *Game of Thrones*." Sounds like her agents' suggestion that she manage her expectations has fallen on deaf ears. "I feel that part of my career was repressed after *Tank Girl* and many opportunities were not afforded to me," she says. "I want them *back*." ◆

DOCTOR WHO: BBC WORLDWIDE LIMITED; *FREDDY'S DEAD: THE FINAL NIGHTMARE*: NEW LINE CINEMA/PHOTOFEST

THE SILICON VALLEY

Kumail Nanjiani, Martin Starr, Thomas Middleditch, Zach Woods, and T.J. Miller

POP CULTURE PERSONALITY TEST

HBO COMEDY **SILICON VALLEY** *WILL STAGE ITS FIRST PANEL AT COMIC-CON THIS YEAR. IN HONOR OF THE PIED PIPER CREW CRASHING THE FAN FEST, WE ASKED THE FIVE GUYS—* **THOMAS MIDDLEDITCH, T.J. MILLER, KUMAIL NANJIANI, MARTIN STARR,** *AND* **ZACH WOODS***—TO SUBMIT THEMSELVES TO OUR SPECIAL COMIC-CON-THEMED QUESTIONNAIRE. THE RESULTS WILL ~~SURPRISE~~ AMUSE YOU.* **BY DAN SNIERSON**

THE CAST	Thomas Middleditch	T.J. Miller	Kumail Nanjiani	Martin Starr	Zach Woods

1

Sell us on a plot for a *Batman v LEGO Batman* movie.

T.J. MILLER Batman leisurely takes LEGO Batman apart. Roll credits.
ZACH WOODS To be honest, I'd rather see Batman vs. American Girl Doll Batman. Just a higher-quality toy.
THOMAS MIDDLEDITCH Batman, sad that he's just a grown man in a costume, plays LEGO alone in his basement. No amount of coaxing from Alfred can get him to go outside and make friends. The LEGO people are his slaves and playthings. Very dark. *The Babadook* director Jennifer Kent is at the helm.

2

Which Star Wars character deserves a spin-off?

MIDDLEDITCH Sol Starbeg, CPA. He does accounting on the Death Star but also covers up shady legal matters for the right amount of credits.
KUMAIL NANJIANI Whichever walk-on part I can beg myself into for any of the next movies.
MARTIN STARR

Leia. Always choose Leia.

3

Facebook got its own movie. Which other social-networking site merits one most?

MILLER Friendster. Where is it now? In some dark, terrible S&M vocation, I'm sure.
STARR Snapchat is already a short-form porno-flick extravaganza.
NANJIANI Twitter, cuz it would only be 140 seconds long, and then there would be a ton of "Reply Movies" telling it how it was wrong.

4

Season 6 of *Game of Thrones* recently ended. Which deceased character are you convinced isn't actually dead?

STARR Jon Snow. I mean, it's Jonathan F---ing Snow! He's alive, I tell you.
WOODS Who cares? Tupac was just seen in Havana!
MIDDLEDITCH Oberyn Martell, just because I'd like to see them squirm trying to justify a guy who got his head exploded coming back to try and have sex with everything.

5

Martin Starr has been cast in the new Spider-Man movie. If there were a Spider spat with these big-screen Spider-Mans—Tobey Maguire, Andrew Garfield, Tom Holland—who'd win?

MIDDLEDITCH

IS IT NOT A GOOD TIME TO SAY I DON'T LIKE SUPER-HEROES? NEXT.

NANJIANI I think it would depend on the competition. Tobey would win at poker. Garfield wins "Best Hair." But he would win that against any superhero or person in the world. Tom wins "Most Current."
MILLER Tobey Maguire. He was so cool playing poker in that one movie. And in *Traffic*.

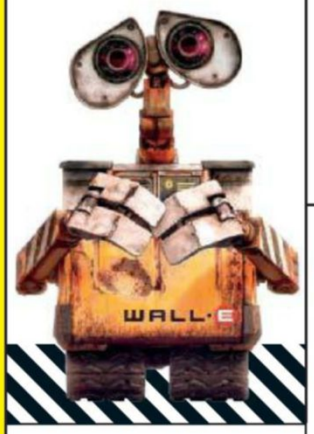
SILICON VALLEY: ISABELLA VOSMIKOVA/HBO; ACTOR HEADS: FRANK MA/HBO; BEN AFFLECK: CLAY ENOS/© 2014 WARNER BROS. ENTERTAINMENT INC., RATPAC-DUNE ENTERTAINMENT LLC AND RATPAC ENTERTAINMENT, LLC; CARRIE FISHER: © & TM LUCASFILM, LTD.; KIT HARINGTON: HBO; SPIDERMAN (LEFT): ZADE ROSENTHAL; GARFIELD: FRANK OCKENFELS 3

THE CAST	Thomas Middleditch	T.J. Miller	Kumail Nanjiani	Martin Starr	Zach Woods

6

What is the all-time best movie featuring an ominous computer?

MIDDLEDITCH *The Imitation Game*. The utility bills alone, my heavens!
STARR Nah. I like Johnny 5, if we're talking about great robot/computer characters.
WOODS *Wall·E*. His smug environmentalism is chilling.



7

Like it or not, there is going to be a Tetris movie. Which Tetris shape do you identify most with?

MILLER The zigzag. Because you don't know which it is, but you also do. That's like me. You don't know why, but you do.
WOODS Any of them. I will contort myself into any unnatural shape in order to fit in.
NANJIANI I'm that useless four-block thing that looks like an *s* or a *z*. Cuz nobody is ever excited to see me either.
MIDDLEDITCH Straight line. You need me. You yearn for me. But I never arrive.

8

If your *Silicon Valley* character had a superpower, what would it be?

NANJIANI If Dinesh could choose a superpower, it doesn't matter what he would pick, cuz he'd only use it to try and get laid. And he would fail.
WOODS

A "SPIDEY SENSE" FOR FINDING SENSIBLY PRICED TEAS.

STARR Telepathy. And who's to say he doesn't already possess such a power? (Not you.)

9

The *Suicide Squad* comics feature villain names like Killer Croc, Slipknot, Multiplex, the Changing Man, Count Vertigo, and Clock King. If you were a notorious supervillain recruited by the government to execute a black-ops mission, what would your name be?

MILLER JESTER's EyE
MIDDLEDITCH Charles or David Koch.
WOODS Josh.

10

What's the nerdiest pickup line you've ever heard?

STARR What's 1 + 1? Us!
NANJIANI They must call you Hadouken, *baby*, because you are *downright fierce*. (You have to be a real nerd to get it. That's how nerdy it is.)
MIDDLEDITCH 10010100101010001001 11
WOODS If we date, you can use my employee discount at Relax the Back. Maybe. I have to check with Ron, my manager. He can be a real piece.

11

How would you like to see a character die in the next superhero movie?

WOODS Quietly, lying in bed with his wife after a life full of joy, disappointment, and compromise.
MILLER From overlistening to Deepak Chopra.
NANJIANI Just, like, drowning. Superheroes never drown. I guess this answer makes me sound like a psychopath.

12

***Silicon Valley* and *The Big Bang Theory* do a crossover episode. What is the story line?**

STARR Are you sure about that? I feel like I'd know about that if it were happening.
NANJIANI We say "f---" and they freak out.
MIDDLEDITCH There are so many girls on that show. Sex party.
MILLER The *Silicon Valley* guys wonder why the actors from *Big Bang Theory* are in their world, and the *Big Bang Theory* crew is wondering why the guy from *Yogi Bear* 3-D and his friends are so high and in their world.

13

Harrison Ford broke his leg while filming *The Force Awakens*. What was the worst on-set injury you suffered while filming *Silicon Valley*?

MILLER I hurt my hand slapping a kid and calling him a c---.
STARR One time I watched Zach Woods spill an entire bowl of cereal WITH MILK all over the ground. And I mean, ALL OVER THE GROUND. It wasn't pretty.
WOODS A bruised ego. Ha-ha-ha, no, I'm just kidding. True answer: I broke my penis. It's completely ruined.

14

***Star Trek Beyond* is in theaters this month. Which *Silicon* character would be the worst captain of the *Enterprise*?**

NANJIANI All of them would be terrible. Only Monica would be good. It should be Monica.
MIDDLEDITCH Gavin Belson. He'd just beam down to planets, take opportunistic photos of him planting trees or something, then blow that sucker up.
WOODS Guys. Tupac. Was SEEN. In HAVANA!

ACTOR HEADS: FRANK MAU/HBO; *WALL·E*: © PIXAR/DISNEY; TETRIS: GETTY IMAGES; KILLER CROC: COURTESY OF DC ENTERTAINMENT; *THE BIG BANG THEORY*: CBS; FORD: DAVID JAMES/© LUCASFILM 2015

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IN FOCUS

BY ENTERTAINMENT WEEKLY

Join **SweeTARTS** and **Troye Sivan** as they kick off Entertainment Weekly's Con-X at Comic-Con with a FREE concert at Horton Plaza Park on **Wednesday, July 20.**

The concert is part of the new SweeTARTS #FollowYourTART campaign, which champions fans to follow their passions and stay true to themselves. Fans who attend can also visit the SweeTARTS *Follow Your TART* candy customization lab, try the new SweeTARTS Mini Gummies and more!

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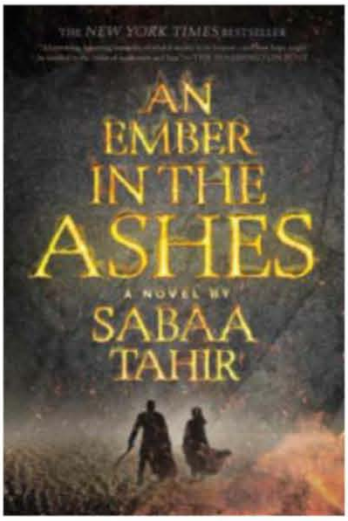

AN INSTANT *NEW YORK TIMES* BESTSELLER

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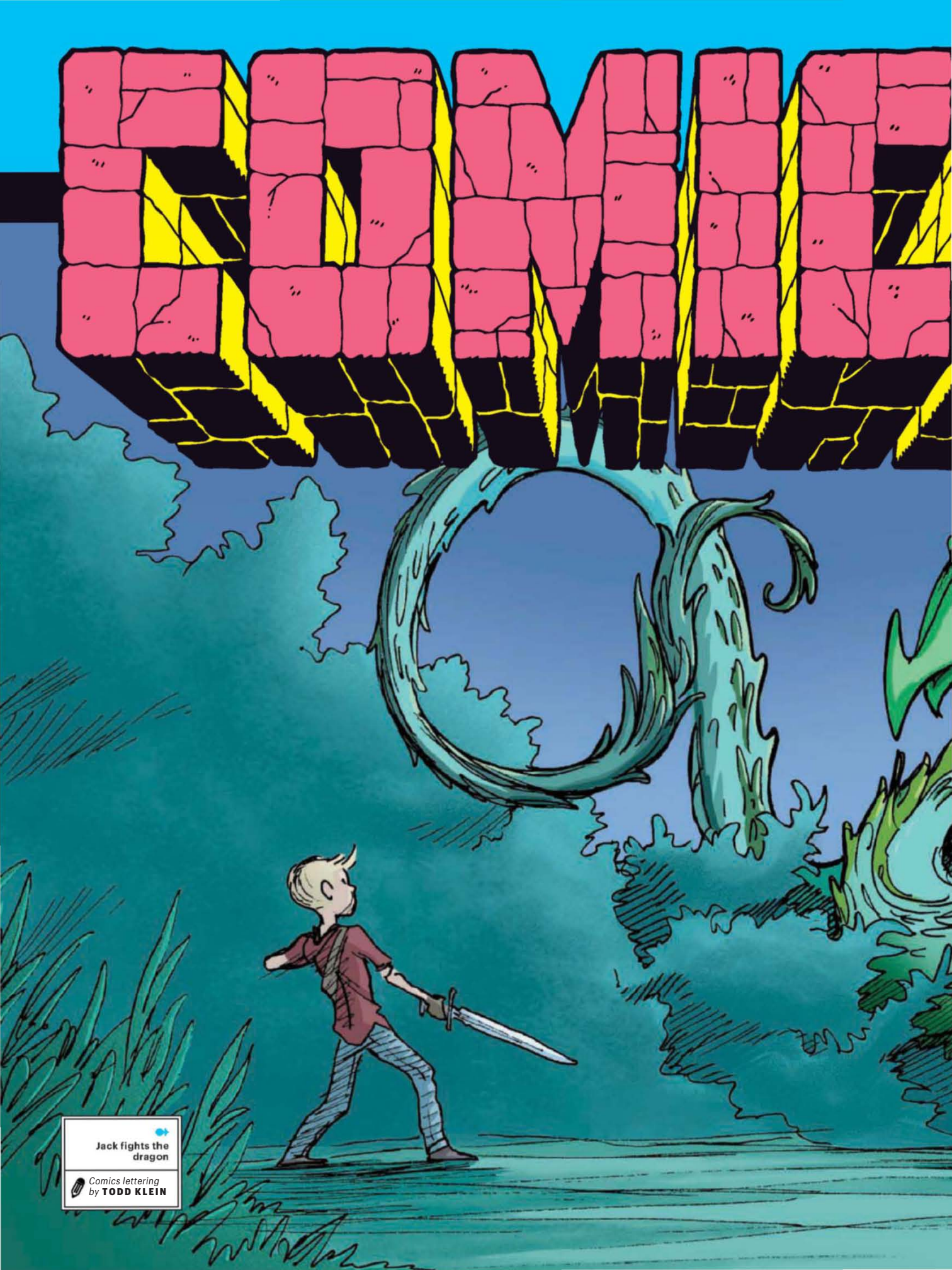
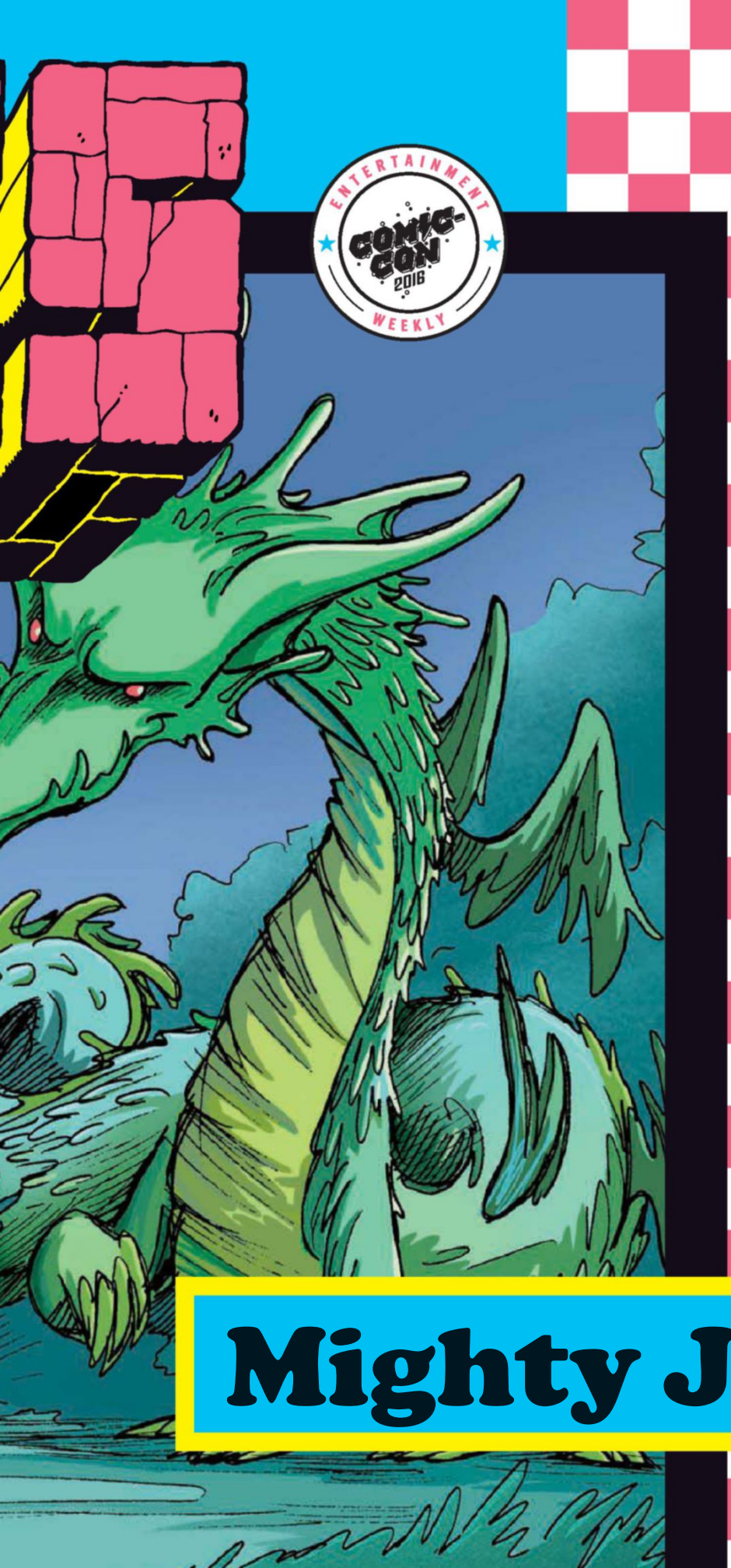


Jack fights the dragon

Comics lettering by **TODD KLEIN**



Mighty Jack VOL. 1

Ben Hatke's modern update of *Jack and the Beanstalk* not only replaces the beanstalk with a magic garden but also gives Jack an autistic sister named Maddy. The first part of the story (with the second out next year) finds Jack torn between the two. "A lot of it is about Jack's relationship with the garden and with his sister, who really loves the garden and wants to keep working on it, keep experimenting with it," says Hatke (*Zita the Spacegirl*, *Little Robot*). "[He's pulled] between the adventure of this and his responsibility to keep his sister safe from an increasingly dangerous situation. It becomes a coming-of-age story in that sense." —**CHRISTIAN HOLUB**

WRITER BEN HATKE	***RELEASE DATE*** September 06 / 2016
ARTIST BEN HATKE	

DOOM PATROL

WRITER	GERARD WAY
ARTIST	NICK DERINGTON
RELEASE DATE	**SEPTEMBER 14** / 2016

For his new DC imprint Young Animal, ex–My Chemical Romance singer Gerard Way is readying four series, including *Doom Patrol*, which is inspired by Grant Morrison's notably strange overhaul of the superhero-team title back in the '90s. "I felt it was time to reintroduce that energy to the reading public," Way says. "*Doom Patrol* is the kind of book where they can rescue an alien planet or they can go to a punk show." Also due from Young Animal? *Mother Panic*, *Cave Carson Has a Cybernetic Eye*, and a fresh take on Steve Ditko's *Shade, the Changing Man* called *Shade, the Changing Girl*. —CLARK COLLIS

Curse Words

WRITER CHARLES SOULE

ARTIST RYAN BROWNE

RELEASE DATE **JANUARY** / 2017

In this dark, comedic fantasy from Charles Soule (*Daredevil*, *She-Hulk*) and Ryan Browne (*God Hates Astronauts*), a wizard named Wizord turns up in modern-day New York and starts using his magical powers to help people. "The twist is he is actually an evil wizard in good-wizard disguise," Soule says. "It's a reverse *Breaking Bad* with a bad guy trying to go good, except it's with magic instead of meth. But you can't outrun your past, and so magical assassins and all this craziness starts to show up in the city. There's hogtaurs, there's spells..." Wait, back up. What's a hogtaur? "It's like a centaur, except the horse part is a big, burly hog," Soule says. "It is my sincere hope that by this point next year, *hogtaur* has entered the popular lexicon in a big way. It's time. I think we're ready as a people." —CLARK COLLIS

(PREVIOUS SPREAD) FIRST SECOND BOOKS; (THIS SPREAD) DOOM PATROL: DC ENTERTAINMENT; *CURSE WORDS*: IMAGE COMICS; *BETTY & VERONICA*: ARCHIE COMICS; *ROYAL CITY*: IMAGE COMICS

BETTY & VERONICA

WRITER ADAM HUGHES

ARTIST ADAM HUGHES

RELEASE DATE July 20 / 2016

THE LATEST ARCHIE COMICS REBOOT focuses on two of the most famous frenemies in American pop culture: bright, blond Betty and cool, brunet Veronica. Writer-artist Adam Hughes, known for his *Wonder Woman* and *Catwoman* covers, is determined to keep what's timeless about the characters, with only the slightest contemporary touches. "Betty and Veronica are iconic, archetypal," Hughes says. "Apart from exorbitant smartphone usage, I want these stories to read just as well 20 years from now. Okay, I'm also giving them tight pants. Why are kids wearing such tight pants these days? I have no idea." —CHRISTIAN HOLUB

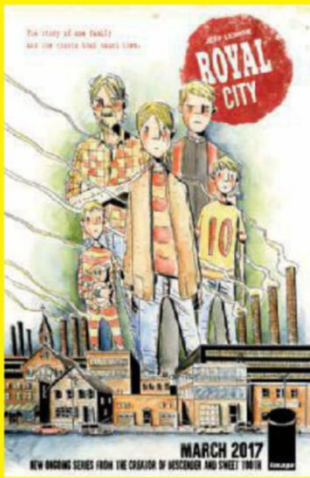
ROYAL CITY

WRITER JEFF LEMIRE

ARTIST JEFF LEMIRE

RELEASE DATE **MARCH** / 2017

Superstar creator Jeff Lemire is already writing Hawkeye, X-Men, Wolverine, and Moon Knight monthlies for Marvel. But next year brings *Royal City*, a new multigenerational family saga set in a once-thriving factory town. "I wanted to get back to doing comics that were more grounded," he says. But Lemire's aspirations for *Royal City* seem practically cosmic: "I have a two-season plan that will tell one decisive story. But the idea of returning to this family of characters at different points in my life is really exciting." —DARREN FRANICH



Movies

EDITED BY **KEVIN P. SULLIVAN** @KPSull

▲ Melissa McCarthy, Kristen Wiig, Kate McKinnon, and Leslie Jones

Ghostbusters

STARRING	DIRECTED BY
Kristen Wiig, Melissa McCarthy, Kate McKinnon, Leslie Jones	Paul Feig

RATING	LENGTH	REVIEW BY
PG-13	1 hr., 45 mins.	Chris Nashawaty @*ChrisNashawaty*

WHEN IT WAS FIRST ANNOUNCED IN LATE 2014, Paul Feig's female-fronted *Ghostbusters* instantly became more than just Hollywood's latest reclamation project. It turned into a cultural litmus test—a high-voltage third rail that brought out the uglier elements of the social-media sphere. While some pounded their thumbs raw tweeting about how sacrilegious it was to mess with a beloved touchstone of their youths (get over it), others spewed mouth-breathing, misogynist bile about the fact that the male cast would now be played by...gasp...*women* (get a life). Either way, after a year and a half of noxious hot air, Feig's comedy is finally here, and it's time to ask the only question that should've been posed in the first place: Is the new *Ghostbusters* funny? The answer is: kind of, but not nearly to the degree it should be, considering the talent involved.

What made the original *Ghostbusters* an instant classic in the summer of 1984 was not only the anarchic, loosey-goosey chemistry between Bill Murray, Dan Aykroyd, Harold Ramis, and Ernie Hudson but also its unique combination of high-IQ smarts and lowbrow silliness served with a straight face ("Tell him about the Twinkie..."). It was a big special-effects blockbuster with the tossed-off hilarity of a killer improv set. With Melissa McCarthy, Kristen Wiig, and *SNL*'s Kate McKinnon

HOPPER STONE, SMPSP

REEL NEWS

Dory* Keeps Swimming** The Pixar sequel passed *Captain America: Civil War* as 2016's top-grossing domestic film, with $423 million. • **A Bolder *Beyond John Cho, who plays Sulu, revealed that his version of the *Star Trek* character is gay.

and Leslie Jones now wearing the proton packs, the new *Ghostbusters* gets the chemistry part right, but the laughs don't pile up as high as you'd expect. Which is strange, because if anyone seemed right for the gig, it's Feig—a director who's carved out a sorely needed niche by showcasing hilarious women and really letting them soar in box office hits like *Bridesmaids* and *Spy*.

So why does *Ghostbusters* feel so restrained? For starters, it's too slavish when it nods to the original (although its throwback cameos are fun) and too flailing and flat when it strays from it (Feig and co-writer Katie Dippold introduce a ghost-unleashing villain, then don't know what to do with him). Even the spectral F/X are oddly schlocky (seeing it in 3-D is pointless aside from one comin'-at-ya slime gag). McCarthy, of course, gets off some lunatic one-liners as the group's loose cannon, McKinnon can crack you up just by widening her wild-card eyes, Jones mixes her signature bluster with an air of gung ho joy, and Wiig's timing is as Swiss-precise as ever (that is, when she's not being saddled as the film's straight-woman). Even Chris Hemsworth, as the Ghostbusters' dim beefcake receptionist, is funny—for a while. But with a cast as daring and quick as this one, *Ghostbusters* is too mild and plays it too safe. Somewhere, I bet, there's an R-rated director's cut of the movie where these women really let it rip. I want to see *that* movie. **C+**

THIS FILM CONTAINS THE FOLLOWING:

- S SLIMERS
- FS FAN SERVICE
- YC YOUTUBE COMMENTS
- C CAMEOS

THE GHOSTBUSTERS' GREATEST HITS

The new crew in the jumpsuits and proton packs have stellar comedic catalogs. Here are our favorites.

BY KEVIN P. SULLIVAN

LESLIE JONES "NAKED AND AFRAID" (2016)

The current *SNL* cast member got to play off of her real-life *Game of Thrones* fandom in a revealing reality-show send-up costarring Peter Dinklage.

KATE McKINNON "CLOSE ENCOUNTER" (2015)

McKinnon's first sketch as Ms. Rafferty, the unlucky survivor of an intrusive alien abduction, stands out for her cartoon callbacks and cackling costars.

KRISTEN WIIG "PENELOPE: GROUP THERAPY" (2009)

One of Wiig's several quirky recurring characters, the constantly one-upping Penelope allowed her to be quick, weird, and hilarious.

MELISSA McCARTHY *BRIDESMAIDS* (2011)

Everything that makes McCarthy a certified star is on perfect display in Megan. She's fierce and tough with just the right note of sweetness under it all.

Nicholas Hoult

Equals

STARRING Kristen Stewart, Nicholas Hoult

DIRECTED BY Drake Doremus

RATING PG-13 | **LENGTH** 1 hr., 41 mins.

REVIEW BY Leah Greenblatt @*Leahbats*

MOVIES ABOUT THE FUTURE tend to envision the world in one of two ways: as the feral, scorched-earth wasteland of some post–nuclear/zombie/giant-lizard apocalypse; or as a sleek, chilly utopia ruled by soulless technocrats and paranoia. (Though there are exceptions, of course, like Spike Jonze's lovely, quirky *Her*.)

Equals falls firmly in the sleek-and-soulless camp: In this unnamed, undated tomorrowland, citizens live and work collectively, automatons shuttled between airy dormlike apartments and sterile offices with stopwatch precision. Sex is forbidden; conception is immaculate and by appointment only—and romantic love, like other pesky emotions, has been excised in utero. But when Silas (Nicholas Hoult) begins to exhibit strange symptoms—nightmares, runny noses, a newfound fixation on his co-worker Nia (Kristen Stewart)—he is diagnosed with Switched On Syndrome, which is essentially just his innate, illegal humanness breaking through.

Director Drake Doremus carefully constructs an us-against-the-world romance for Silas and Nia (an idea he pulled off beautifully in the underrated 2011 drama *Like Crazy*, starring Felicity Jones and the late Anton Yelchin) and provides them with a rogue band of fellow thought rebels, including Guy Pearce and Jacki Weaver. His vision is gorgeously styled and impeccably shot, but the movie rarely transcends symbolism; it feels less like a fully formed story than a genetically engineered hybrid of *Gattaca* and a feature-length fragrance ad (Detachment, by Calvin Klein). If this is what the future holds, bring on the giant lizards. **B–**

BRIDESMAIDS: SUZANNE HANOVER; *EQUALS*: JESSICA FORDE

EVERY WOODY ALLEN MOVIE RANKED

Fifty years. Forty-six films. No one can deny just how prolific Woody Allen is, and with the debut of his new movie, ***Café Society***, we've ordered his entire career from best to worst. BY CHRIS NASHAWATY

1 / ANNIE HALL
1977
It may not be a surprising choice, but it's the only one. Allen and Diane Keaton capture the entire absurd arc of two people in love (dizzy flirtation, head-over-heels infatuation, domestic routine, and eventual breakup) in 93 perfect minutes.

2 / CRIMES AND MISDEMEANORS
1989

3 / HANNAH AND HER SISTERS
1986

4 / MANHATTAN
1979

5 / ZELIG
1983
Allen's inspired mockumentary about the life and times of human chameleon Leonard Zelig is a spot-on homage to vintage newsreels and a seamless exercise in technique. If this one's slipped under your radar, what are you waiting for?

6 / THE PURPLE ROSE OF CAIRO
1985

7 / BROADWAY DANNY ROSE
1984

8 / HUSBANDS AND WIVES
1992

9 / MANHATTAN MURDER MYSTERY
1993
After his nasty tabloid split from Mia Farrow, Allen found the daffy balm he so badly needed, reuniting with his greatest onscreen comedy foil, Keaton, in this seltzer-propelled screwball riff on *Rear Window*.

10 / TAKE THE MONEY AND RUN
1969

11 / RADIO DAYS
1987

12 / STARDUST MEMORIES
1980

13 / SLEEPER
1973

14 / LOVE AND DEATH
1975

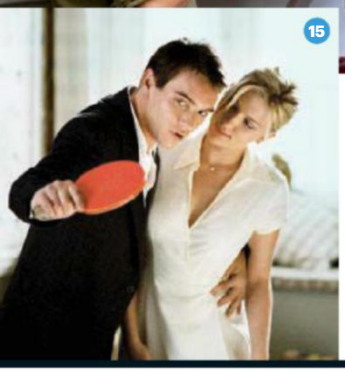
15 / MATCH POINT
2005
Mired in a creative and commercial slump in the early 2000s, Allen surprised many by heading to England, discovering a new muse in Scarlett Johansson, and crafting a smoldering drama about class, passion, and romantic deceit.

16 / BLUE JASMINE
2013

17 / BANANAS
1971

18 / MIDNIGHT IN PARIS
2011

CAFE SOCIETY: SABRINA LANTOS; *MIGHTY APHRODITE*: EVERETT COLLECTION; *ZELIG, ANNIE HALL*: PHOTOFEST (2)



19 / ANOTHER WOMAN
1988

20 / EVERYONE SAYS I LOVE YOU
1996

21 / BULLETS OVER BROADWAY
1994

THE NEWEST MOVIE

22 / CAFÉ SOCIETY
2016

A sepia-tinted love letter to '30s Hollywood, Allen's latest stars Jesse Eisenberg as a Bronx neurotic who heads west to make it in the movie biz with the help of his power-broker uncle (Steve Carell) and falls for his uncle's mistress (Kristen Stewart). With a bittersweet love triangle and nods to the Brown Derby and Adolphe Menjou, *Café Society* is a solid second-tier Allen film. You won't need to see it again, but it will whet your appetite for an Ernst Lubitsch movie. **B**

23 / VICKY CHRISTINA BARCELONA
2008

24 / SWEET AND LOWDOWN
1999

25 / INTERIORS
1978

26 / MAGIC IN THE MOONLIGHT
2014

27 / IRRATIONAL MAN
2015

28 / WHAT'S UP, TIGER LILY?
1966

Allen's directorial debut is a conceptual stand-up skit masquerading as a grade-Z comedy, in which he overdubs a recycled Japanese spy movie with a volley of half-baked one-liners ("Spartan dog!") and non sequiturs about a top secret egg salad recipe.

29 / THE CURSE OF THE JADE SCORPION
2001

Generally dismissed as one of his disposable, lesser comedies, this rat-a-tat *Double Indemnity*-meets-the-exotic-Orient jewel caper is worth a second look, thanks to Helen Hunt's whip-crack timing and Allen's whirlwind of flustered shtick.

30 / EVERYTHING YOU ALWAYS WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT SEX...
1972

31 / A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S SEX COMEDY
1982

32 / DECONSTRUCTING HARRY
1997

33 / SHADOWS AND FOG
1991

34 / CASSANDRA'S DREAM
2007

35 / ALICE
1990

36 / HOLLYWOOD ENDING
2002

37 / CELEBRITY
1998

38 / MIGHTY APHRODITE
1995

Regardless of how you feel about Mira Sorvino's Oscar-winning performance as a ditzy prostitute, this gets my vote for Allen's most overrated comedy. The patently unfunny and overly cute Greek chorus kills it for me every time.

39 / SCOOP
2006

40 / SMALL TIME CROOKS
2000

41 / MELINDA AND MELINDA
2004

42 / TO ROME WITH LOVE
2012

43 / YOU WILL MEET A TALL DARK STRANGER
2010

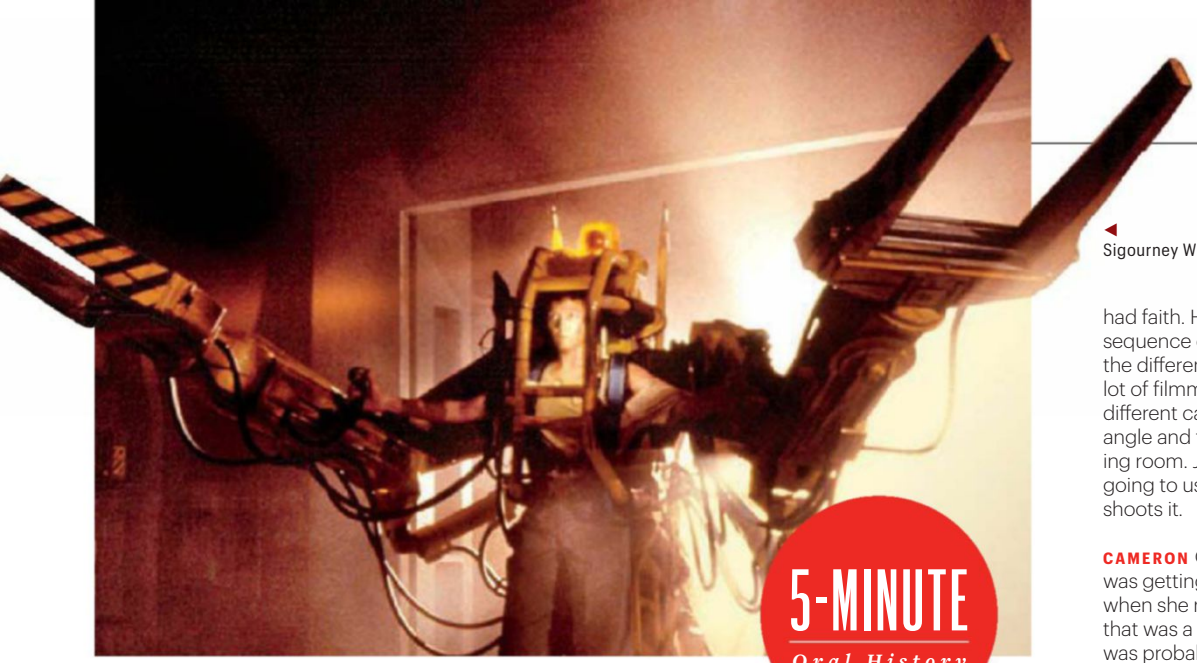
44 / SEPTEMBER
1987

45 / ANYTHING ELSE
2003

46 / WHATEVER WORKS
2009

Allen stand-in Larry David gives a phoned-in performance in an ill-advised pair of shorts as a too-familiar misanthrope caught up in a cringe-inducing relationship with a too-young runaway played by the too-good-for-this Evan Rachel Wood. Not even for completists.

MANHATTAN MURDER MYSTERY: BRIAN HAMILL; *WHATEVER WORKS*: JESSICA MIGLIO; *MATCH POINT*: CLIVE COOTE



◀ Sigourney Weaver

5-MINUTE
Oral History

ALIENS ANNIVERSARY

Remembering the "Get Away From Her, You *Bitch*!" Scene

Ahead of a 30th-anniversary reunion at San Diego Comic-Con, EW spoke with the filmmakers behind one of film's most enduring (and badass) scenes. BY ANTHONY BRETZNICAN

*It's a showdown between two mad-as-hell mothers. On one side, **Sigourney Weaver**'s Ripley, trying to rescue the little girl Newt (Carrie Henn), who reminds her of her own lost daughter. Facing them down is the gargantuan Alien Queen, who mercifully spared Ripley and Newt—only to have the human betray their unspoken deal and torch her nest of hatchlings.*

*Oh...it's on. For the 30th anniversary of **James Cameron**'s* Aliens, *Weaver, producer **Gale Anne Hurd**, and the filmmaker himself will reunite with the rest of the cast at San Diego Comic-Con. But for now, they reminisce about the sci-fi classic's final knock-down-drag-out.*

In preproduction, Cameron and the late special-effects pioneer Stan Winston started by mocking up the Alien Queen's 15-foot metal skeleton draped in black garbage bags for skin—just to see if it could be controlled by puppeteers. Ironically, the team that previously made the Terminator did not want to use robotics.

HURD It just seemed too dangerous for Sigourney Weaver to be up against something that large, animatronic, and unwieldy. What if there's a swat and it hits someone? That's going to hurt them—potentially kill them. We wanted to avoid that.

CAMERON It all worked out pretty well. Kind of surprisingly well, for being such a harebrained idea.

HURD Once we realized the design could work and we could put two of Stan Winston's puppeteers in the Alien Queen, Jim proceeded to write the scene.

CAMERON It was two guys inside the suit that ran the arms, and then the legs were puppeted from off camera using rods that went to the ankles. There was a guy on a ladder with a long pole with some fishing line on it that was whipping the tail around, and the head was actually a complicated servo with hydraulics. I think probably three or four guys manipulated the different axes of the head.

WEAVER Of course, I don't think of her as a puppet [*laughs*], even today. I made sure that I didn't know all that. I felt I needed to not get too involved in the mechanics so that I could just experience it on the fly. I sort of stayed in my own world. But I know that it must have been crazy inside the Queen, you know?

Sometimes both Ripley and the Queen were miniatures, animated with a process called "go motion," a more sophisticated version of stop motion.

HURD I kept thinking, "There is no way this is gonna work." But it did. And you couldn't tell when we cut from full-size to those [miniatures]. One has to acknowledge that Jim is indeed a genius. He had faith. He already had the sequence cut in his head. That's the difference between Jim and a lot of filmmakers. They'll set up six different cameras and get every angle and figure it out in the editing room. Jim knows what he's going to use before he even shoots it.

▼ James Cameron on set

CAMERON One of the harder shots was getting it to run after [Ripley] when she runs to the air lock, and that was a miniature puppet that was probably only about three feet tall, operated by rods with a slot in the floor. You had to frame it very carefully so you didn't see the rods, since in those days you couldn't even take rods and wires out [digitally].

When Ripley wears the power-loader gear to grapple with the Queen, even the life-size Sigourney Weaver was being puppeted by a large man inside the yellow armor. The awkward movements made choreography difficult.

CAMERON I'm the conductor, and Stan was the conductor. I was dealing not only with the Alien Queen, but with the power loader as well and with camera motion. We were swinging the camera around to increase the speed of the Queen or the power loader and give it all this kind of rotating, waltz-like or martial-arts-like kind of movement.

HURD It looked incredibly cool. Certainly a lot better than the trash-bags version in Stan Winston's parking lot. It looked very intimidating, and the great thing about it, at the end of the day, is Sigourney Weaver's performance. It is the battle between Ripley fighting for her surrogate daughter, and the Queen Alien fighting to protect her offspring. After the flamethrower wipes those out, the Queen reacts like any mother would.

The actress never felt endangered. But she did feel dangerous.

WEAVER Looking back, I'm always astonished that they trusted me to flame the dummies and shoot blanks into the stunt guys and bazookas into some of the other targets. You know, we just went for it. And luckily, I didn't kill anyone.

WEAVER: EVERETT COLLECTION; CAMERON: PHOTOFEST

NOW PLAYING

YOUR COMPLETE GUIDE TO FILMS IN THEATERS THIS WEEK

EW

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	EW	
WATCH IT NOW	A–	**MICROBE & GASOLINE** (L) **Starring** Ange Dargent, Théophile Baquet, Audrey Tautou • **Directed by** Michel Gondry
	B+	**CAPTAIN FANTASTIC** (L) **Starring** Viggo Mortensen, Frank Langella, Steve Zahn • **Directed by** Matt Ross
	B+	**MEN GO TO BATTLE** (L) **Starring** David Maloney, Tim Morton The shaggy, semi-focused, but assuredly offbeat debut film from Zachary Treitz (co-written with *House of Cards* actress Kate Lyn Sheil) blends the Civil War with mumblecore for one of the year's most authentic trips in the way-back machine.
	B+	**THE INFILTRATOR** (W) **Starring** Bryan Cranston, Diane Kruger, Amy Ryan • **Directed by** Brad Furman
PROCEED WITH CAUTION	B	**FINDING DORY** (W) **Starring** Ellen DeGeneres, Albert Brooks • **Directed by** Andrew Stanton & Angus MacLane
	B	**LIFE, ANIMATED** (L) **Directed by** Roger Ross Williams
	B	**MIKE AND DAVE NEED WEDDING DATES** (W) **Starring** Zac Efron, Adam Devine, Anna Kendrick • **Directed by** Jake Szymanski
	B	**ZERO DAYS** (V) (L) **Directed by** Alex Gibney
	B–	**THE BFG** (W) **Starring** Mark Rylance, Ruby Barnhill, Rebecca Hall • **Directed by** Steven Spielberg
	B–	**THE SECRET LIFE OF PETS** (W) **Starring** Louis C.K., Eric Stonestreet • **Directed by** Chris Renaud & Yarrow Cheney
	C+	**CELL** (V) (L) **Starring** John Cusack, Samuel L. Jackson Based on Stephen King's 2006 best-seller about a virus that turns people into zombies via their cell phones, Tod Williams' modest, middling chiller takes an intriguing satirical premise and dilutes whatever potency it had on the page.
SKIP IT	C	**FATHERS AND DAUGHTERS** (V) (L) **Starring** Amanda Seyfried, Russell Crowe, Aaron Paul This amount of syrup can be tolerable in small doses, but *Fathers and Daughters*' predictable plot keeps it from ever becoming a truly enjoyable tearjerker.
	C	**FREE STATE OF JONES** (W) **Starring** Matthew McConaughey, Gugu Mbatha-Raw, Keri Russell • **Directed by** Gary Ross
	D+	**THE NEON DEMON** (W) **Starring** Elle Fanning, Jena Malone, Abbey Lee • **Directed by** Nicolas Winding Refn
	F	**INDEPENDENCE DAY: RESURGENCE** (W) **Starring** Liam Hemsworth, Jeff Goldblum, Maika Monroe • **Directed by** Roland Emmerich

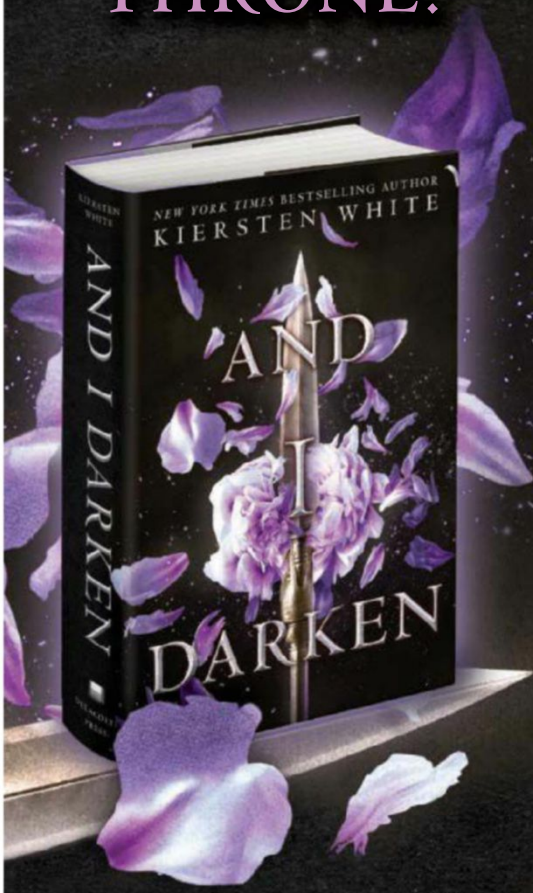
CELL: SABAN FILMS

KEY (L) = LIMITED RELEASE (V) = VOD (W) = WIDE RELEASE

"Absolutely RIVETING."
—ALEXANDRA BRACKEN,
#1 *New York Times* bestselling author of *Passenger*

Heads will roll,
bodies will be impaled,
and hearts will be broken.

CLAIM THE THRONE.



From *New York Times* Bestselling Author
KIERSTEN WHITE

AndIDarken.com #AndIDarken

Art © 2016 by Sam Weber

Delacorte Press

TV

EDITED BY **CAITLIN BRODY** @cbroday

▲ Winona Ryder

Stranger Things

DATE	TIME	NETWORK	REVIEW BY
Debuts July 15	Streaming	Netflix	Jeff Jensen @*EWDocJensen*

YOU'VE SEEN *STRANGER THINGS* BEFORE IN DIFFERENT forms under different titles. The '80s-set chiller is a monster mash of Reagan-era pop culture. The young heroes—bike-riding AV-club misfits—are very Steven Spielberg. The synthesizer score is pure John Carpenter. The title font looks swiped from a Stephen King cover. At every turn, the show calls out inspirations. Posters for *Jaws* and *The Thing* hang on walls. *The Uncanny X-Men #134*—Dark Phoenix unleashed!—is so conspicuously emphasized, I'm tempted to turn this review into a 5,000-word theory analyzing its significance. This show is triggering for nerds of a certain age.

Created by brothers Matt and Ross Duffer (*Wayward Pines*), *Stranger Things* is delightful as a hooked-on-a-feeling mixtape and big-budget fan art. But it struggles to transcend nostalgia or produce consistently compelling entertainment. The Duffers bank heavily on our knowledge of the period and genre to get us to buy into the world and feel something for it. The setting, a hardscrabble Indiana small town, feels extrapolated from a John Cougar Mellencamp song. The characters are familiar archetypes, though they are well cast and terrifically acted. Winona Ryder is a ragged single mom. David Harbour is a grizzled, haunted sheriff. Matthew Modine is a sinister scientist. An ongoing subplot with randy high schoolers—a rich bully (Joe Keery), a virgin smarty (Natalie Dyer), an artsy outsider (Charlie Heaton)—is every

CURTIS BAKER/NETFLIX

LOGLINES

You Don't Own Me Vanessa Lachey was cast alongside Alyson Hannigan and Megan Hilty in TV Land's remake of *The First Wives Club*. • **Murphy Time** Season 6 of *American Horror Story* will premiere Sept. 14.

'80s teen romance and horror movie boiled to their essence and blended.

The story centers on a superfriends squad of *Star Wars*-quoting boys that includes big-eyed Mike (Finn Wolfhard), toothless scene-stealer Dustin (Gaten Matazzaro), and no-nonsense Lucas (Caleb McLaughlin). After a Spielbergian night of D&D and bike riding, the other member of this fantastic foursome (Noah Schnapp) goes missing, abducted by an otherworldly creature. Filling his void is another mystery, a runaway (Millie Brown) with limited vocabulary and telekinetic powers who goes by the name Eleven. The kids harbor and hide this proverbial Firestarter in Mike's basement like their own little E.T. She helps them in their quest to find their friend, but it costs her in ways she lacks language to express and her self-centered boy benefactors fail to recognize.

Even as '80s pastiche, there's little unique about *Stranger Things*—the plot and novelty are stretched thin at eight hours. But it gathers momentum in episode 4 and generates pleasure in the convergence of various story lines. The themes of friendship, mortality, and collective responsibility are stirring if superficial. What moved me most was Eleven's poignant heroism and metaphor for degrading exploitation and wish-fulfillment fantasy. There's a beat that evoked, for me, *Twin Peaks*, that strange thing of the '90s. *Stranger Things* has promise as a peculiar and critical historical survey of geek culture. For now, it seems content to just geek out on it. **B**

THIS SEASON CONTAINS THE FOLLOWING:

- HCL HAUNTED CHRISTMAS LIGHTS
- TR TEEN ROMANCE
- WT WALKIE-TALKIES
- HT HUMAN TAXIDERMY

SCRATCH THAT '80S ITCH

Whether you're looking for cassette players or Rubik's Cubes, there's an '80s show for you

FOR A DIZZYING AMOUNT OF HAIRSPRAY...
The Goldbergs (*ABC*)

FOR TEXT-BASED COMPUTER GAMES...
Halt and Catch Fire (*AMC*)

FOR COUNTRY-CLUB JAZZERCISE...
Red Oaks (*Amazon Prime*)

FOR COLD WAR REFERENCES...
The Americans (*FX*)

FOR *SIXTEEN CANDLES* (WITH EXTRA CORPSES)...
Dead of Summer (*Freeform*)

FEED THE BEAST: DAVID RUSSELL/AMC; JEFF GARLIN; BOB D'AMICO/ABC; WENDI MCLENDON-COVEY; RICHARD CARTWRIGHT/ABC; *HALT AND CATCH FIRE*: QUANTRELL COLBERT/AMC; *RED OAKS*: AMAZON; *THE AMERICANS*: PATRICK HARBON/FX (2); *DEAD OF SUMMER*: TYLER SHIELDS/FREEFORM

David Schwimmer and Jim Sturgess; (*inset*) Harold Dieterle

Fantastic *Beasts* and How to Feed Them

AMC's restaurant drama *Feed the Beast* (Tuesdays, 10 p.m.) is a foodie pleasure thanks to *Top Chef* alum Harold Dieterle. As the chef consultant, he keeps the food factual and the actors from getting overcooked. Here's his recipe. BY MARC SNETIKER

1 / KEEP TIME IN THE KITCHEN

Dieterle's primary responsibility is choreographing the dishes and chefs who fly in and out of the show's fictional Bronx restaurant, Thirio. "I show them how to hold the spoon or pick up the plate—small details that make it feel authentic," says Dieterle, who admits he can forget the actors' amateur status. "One of the actors totally destroyed a rack of lamb, and I burst into the kitchen freaking out," he confesses. "My intensity is probably one of the reasons I was a fit for the show."

2 / CONSULT WITH THE SOUS-CHEFS

The kitchen is all about teamwork, and Dieterle works backward from the cues of food stylist Susan Spungen: "I take her finished dishes and then show the actors how to prepare those elements." He'll plan culinary tasks around the time he has to fill in a scene between stars Jim Sturgess (who plays a coked-up chef) and David Schwimmer (an alcoholic sommelier)—for instance, shaving truffles. "The crew would say, 'You can't do that in two minutes,' and all of a sudden I was [on *Top Chef*] again," says Dieterle with a laugh.

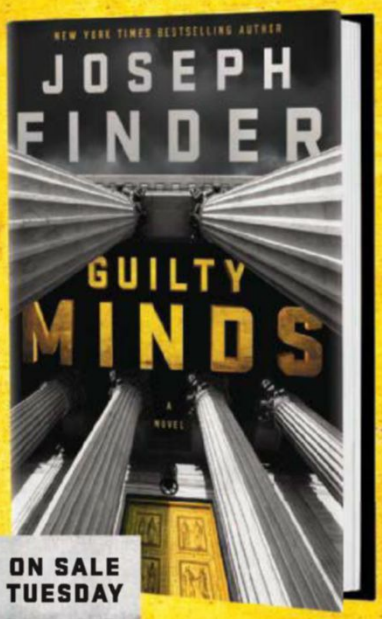
3 / KEEP YOUR COOL

Nicks and cuts are commonplace, but it was Dieterle's personal mission to avoid gastronomic catastrophes. "Jim had to do a langoustine-flambé scene toward the end of a ridiculously long, 15-hour-shoot day. I was very concerned he was going to melt his face off," recalls Dieterle, who miraculously kept Sturgess burn-free. "I kept thinking, 'This is a recipe for disaster.'"

4 / DON'T LEAVE YOUR COOKS UNATTENDED

Beast has finished shooting its first season, but Dieterle's mentorship of his newly trained bon viveurs didn't end at the wrap party. "I have a group chat with all the [actors who play] cooks on the show," he says. "If they make a dish, they'll shoot a picture of it over and ask for a critique."

THE SECRETS WE KEEP NEVER TRULY STAY BURIED



ON SALE TUESDAY

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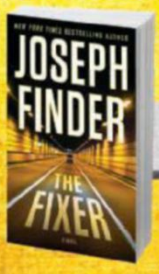

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Looking: The Movie

DATE July 23 | **TIME** 10 p.m. | **NETWORK** HBO

REVIEW BY Marc Snetiker *@MarcSnetiker*

***LOOKING* WAS NEVER** supposed to be "the gay *Girls*," but its debut in 2014 in the post-Dunham time slot perhaps doomed it from the start with an unfair comparison that it never delivered on (nor did it need to) in its far-too-short two-season run. The humor and melodrama the show studied in its central trio of young gay men (Jonathan Groff, Murray Bartlett, and Frankie J. Alvarez) navigating modern romance in San Francisco was laser-focused for a specific subset; it's the open wounds of those fans that this gift of a 90-minute post-cancellation movie special aims to soothe.

The "film"—essentially, just a lengthy episode—charts a three-day wedding weekend that forces the Frisco homecoming of Groff's perennially indecisive protagonist Patrick, who fled the city months prior to hit reset on his life. (It crumbled following the implosion of his relationship with his boss, played by Russell Tovey.) The nature of *Looking*'s dramatic foibles has always lied less in shocking TV twists and more in the consequences of our everyday, almost insignificant choices, so to reveal more about what Patrick's friend group looks like now would be to spoil the whole reprise. Loose plot points are indeed tied up, and some lingering questions are answered—but not for everyone.

Writer-director Andrew Haigh and writer-creator Michael Lannan assume the audience is mostly interested in Patrick's reconciliation of his life choices (an arc accompanied by so many mentions of "closing the chapter," it's easy to lose count). Supporting characters get a slim percentage of screen time, yet their stories deserve more closure than this weepy wrap-up affords.

Haigh and Lannan raise a few compelling questions about our litmus test for happiness, and Groff deserves praise for pulling off a handful of sentimental climaxes. But there's a lingering sense that *Looking* used its rare second chance to purposefully leave its audience longing for closure that simply doesn't exist—which, maybe, was what it always wanted to say in the first place. **B**

▲ Jonathan Groff, Murray Bartlett, and Lauren Weedman

MELISSA MOSELEY/HBO

POWER'S NEW MOVES

Now in its third season, Starz's wildly popular drama (premieres July 17, 9 p.m.) aims to stay on top with a crime-driven story line that promises even more pulpy pleasure. Are you ready? BY NINA TERRERO

Joseph Sikora and Omari Hardwick

SET IN NEW YORK CITY AGAINST a backdrop of drugs, crime, grit, and glamour, *Power*—the Starz drama about James "Ghost" St. Patrick (Omari Hardwick), a gangster trying to become a legitimate businessman—promises even more action in its third season. "I want to pump more octane in it," says creator and showrunner Courtney A. Kemp. "It's not that you can't have quiet moments, but I want people to have this adrenaline-fueled experience." Following last year's finale featuring an epic fight between Ghost and his nemesis, Kanan (50 Cent, who's also an EP on the series), this season follows Ghost's transition from a fixture of the streets to a boardroom tycoon. That is, if he can *truly* leave his drug-lord past behind. Teases Hardwick, "We watch him slowly and subtly become more unsure about who he is and what he wants."

CATCHING UP WITH 50 CENT

It seems like Kanan might have survived the season 2 finale. What can you tell us?
He comes back, but there are new people in position and new stuff going on. He wasn't able to work his way into those circles, so now he's going to take everything he wants by any means necessary.

Any tricks to getting into character?
I haven't worked with an acting coach on this piece. This is easy stuff for me. I know the character. I know the backstories, his drives, why his mannerisms are the way they are. I've worked on all the different things you would need to develop and accurately portray a character for a long time, so it's flattering when people say, "He's not acting; he's Kanan."

You released a mixtape inspired by your character in 2015. Does the show influence how you think about music?
Definitely. Kanan is an altar ego. As him, I can say something completely different than what 50 Cent would say. I'm going to do another Kanan tape that will be an LP of seven songs. I'm also going to do a promo tour.

You had a risqué moment on screen last year. Can we expect any sex scenes from your character this season?
I have some sex scenes, but they're not typical sex scenes. It's going to surprise you. We figured how to do some things you haven't seen on television before. It was interesting shooting—it was a little bit awkward! The acting talent I was working with was like, "So, how are they going to shoot this?"

TV THREADS GET A POWERFUL BOOST

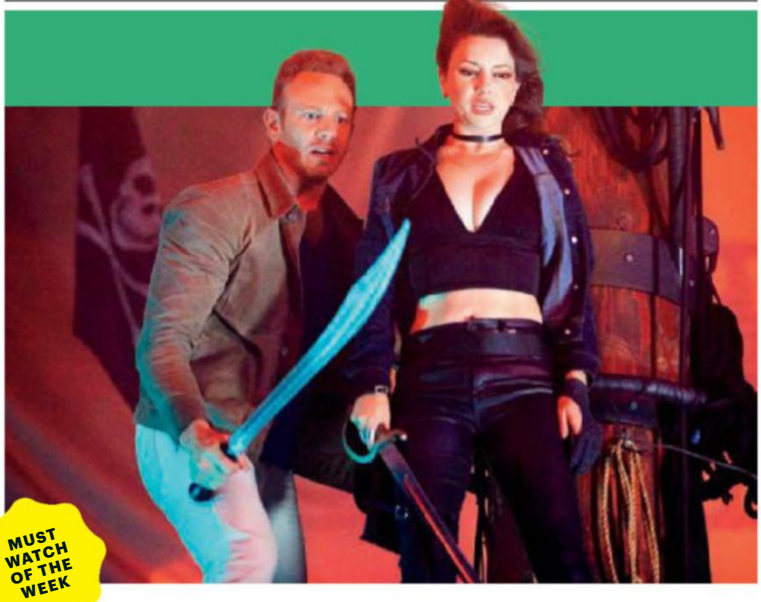
Naturi Naughton

Move over, Cookie. Following her split from Ghost, Tasha (**Naturi Naughton**) gets a revamped closet jam-packed with chic selections from Tom Ford and Alexander McQueen. "She's still urban, but she's elevated," says Naughton of her character's transformation. But there's a reason for her new power threads. "She's going to get involved in the drug business," Naughton reveals of Tasha, who up until now had been behind-the-scenes, manning Ghost's books. "I think when you see her wearing those kinds of things, you know she means business."

POWER: JESSICA MIGLIO/STARZ; 50 CENT: TASIA WELLS/FILMMAGIC.COM; NAUGHTON: STARZ

What to Watch

A DAY-TO-DAY GUIDE TO NOTABLE PROGRAMS* **BY RAY RAHMAN @RayRahman**



MUST WATCH OF THE WEEK

Ian Ziering and Masiela Lusha

SHARKNADO: THE 4TH AWAKENS

SUNDAY, JULY 31 | 8–10PM | SYFY

Fans, you had the power to eliminate Tara Reid! For this summer's installment of the *Sharknado* franchise (and if you need an explanation of the plot, *bite me*), Syfy let the home audience vote online on whether or not Reid's character, April Wexler, should live or die. Viewers will be able to see the results tonight, and things could get bloody. Then again, why would you support Wexler's untimely death? Reid—along with long-time costar Ian Ziering (who plays Fin) and eager D-listers like Stacey Dash, Vince Neil, and the Chippendales dancers—is always so good, argues director Anthony C. Ferrante. "I disagree with these movies being called camp," he says. "The movie is ridiculous. But the difference is that with a lot of [camp] movies, they just ham it up. Our actors treat it like a Marvel movie. Everyone plays it straight." Seriously? *—Lynette Rice*

Go to *ew.com/what-to-watch* for our daily picks of **What to Watch**

MONDAY JULY 18

WWE Monday Night Raw

8–11PM | USA

Counterprogramming for those opposed to the testosterone-fueled drama of the RNC.

BrainDead

10–11PM | CBS

Margo Martindale guests as a bug expert. Margo Martindale: Always here to make a good show better.

Series Debut

The Coroner: I Speak for the Dead

10–11PM | ID

I guess this is the next logical step of the true-crime boom: a forensic series about the work of a county coroner.

PARTY TIME

2016 Republican National Convention

VARIOUS TIMES AND NETWORKS

Find out who'll win this season of *The Celebrity Apprentice: Presidential Edition*.

TUESDAY JULY 19

Series Debut

Shooter

10–11PM | USA

With a name like Bob Lee Swagger, you know that the ex-Marine sniper hero of this twisty series is gonna be a patriotic badass. And since he's also played by Ryan Phillippe, it means this conspiracy thriller is a notch above summer junk food. Based on Mark Wahlberg's forgettable 2007 action flick (Wahlberg is an EP here), *Shooter*'s full of sharp cat-and-mouse intrigue and whiplash double crosses as Swagger's tapped by his former commanding officer (Omar Epps) to stop a sniper from assassinating POTUS. Pull the trigger on this one. B+ *—Chris Nashawaty*

SHARKNADO: THE 4TH AWAKENS: TYLER GOLDEN/SYFY; *SHOOTER*: DEAN BUSCHER/USA NETWORK

*TIMES ARE EASTERN DAYLIGHT AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE

WED JUL 20

MasterChef

8–9PM | FOX

The contestants will create dishes with only $20 worth of ingredients. That's, like, *20* Twinkies!

Penn & Teller: Fool Us

8–9PM | THE CW

Guest star Jesse Eisenberg joins the show to perform his second-greatest trick. (The first, of course, was duping people into seeing *Now You See Me 2*.)

Another Period

10–10:30PM

COMEDY CENTRAL

Lillian must spend time with the sick servants downstairs. How déclassé!

THURSDAY JULY 21

Syfy Presents Live From Comic-Con

8–11PM | SYFY

The network's geek bona fides have always given them a strong SDCC presence, but now they're going even bigger by having Will Arnett host live from the San Diego convention. Airing all three nights, the show promises visits from stars and fans alike. "It's not just sit-down interviews," says EP Heather Olander. "We have celebrities play games, judge cosplay runway contests, interact with fans, and really make it feel like a huge party." *—Christian Holub*

FRIDAY JULY 22

Season Premiere

BoJack Horseman

STREAMING | NETFLIX

One of the thousand gags in *BoJack* season 3 is a reference to *John From Cincinnati*, the 2007 brain burp that HBO hoped would be the heir to *The Sopranos*. That plan failed, but a decade later, our new *Sopranos* is a cartoon about an anthropomorphic horse's struggle to find meaning in an empty world by winning an Oscar. Launched as an animal-pun-heavy riff on '90s sitcomography, *BoJack* is a wildly ambitious streaming-TV saga, telling a rich ensemble story while constantly experimenting with form. See: a near-silent episode that variously homages Charlie Chaplin, *Lost in Translation*, and Super Mario. *BoJack*'s big idea is simple: "Stars! They're sad loners seeking joy, just like us!" And did I mention the animal puns? A *—Darren Franich*

FRI (*cont.*)

SEASON PREMIERE

The Rap Game

10–11PM | LIFETIME

Tiny kids, big chains: Exec producers Queen Latifah and Jermaine Dupri search for the next great young hip-hop talent.

SATURDAY JULY 23

Series Finale

Hell on Wheels

9–10PM | AMC

Anyone who's ever read a U.S. history book knows how the saga of the transcontinental railroad ends: with a golden spike driven into the ground, finally connecting the Union Pacific and Central Pacific railroads. The historical drama's finale will re-create the iconic moment, but Promontory Summit won't be its final stop. Instead, Cullen (Anson Mount) and Durant (Colm Meaney) will head to D.C., where they'll face the consequences of their years of construction conflict. "We wanted to deal with that sense of anger and loss mixed with the feeling of accomplishment," Mount explains. "We didn't want to leave our audience with nothing." After all, *he* nabbed a souvenir for himself. "I kept the golden spike," he admits. "I hope AMC won't call me after this." *—Shirley Li*

SUNDAY JULY 24

Season Premiere

Survivor's Remorse

10–11PM | STARZ

The show's title is about to get literal when Cam (Jessie T. Usher) & Co. must handle the fallout of Julius (Mike Epps) getting hit by a truck. "The first two episodes are processing the loss, and the role that faith plays in people's lives," says EP Mike O'Malley. He notes that future episodes will also focus on knotty issues: "We talk about the kinds of actresses hired to represent black Americans. Are they representative?" There will be Twitter drama, too: "There is this unbelievably fast way in which a person's reputation can be ruined on social media."

SYFY PRESENTS LIVE FROM COMIC-CON: MILLER MOBLEY/SYFY; *BOJACK HORSEMAN*: NETFLIX; *HELL ON WHEELS*: MICHELLE FAYE/AMC; *SURVIVOR'S REMORSE*: STARZ

ILLUSTRATIONS BY **KAITLYN HENDERSON** WITH THE IPAD PRO

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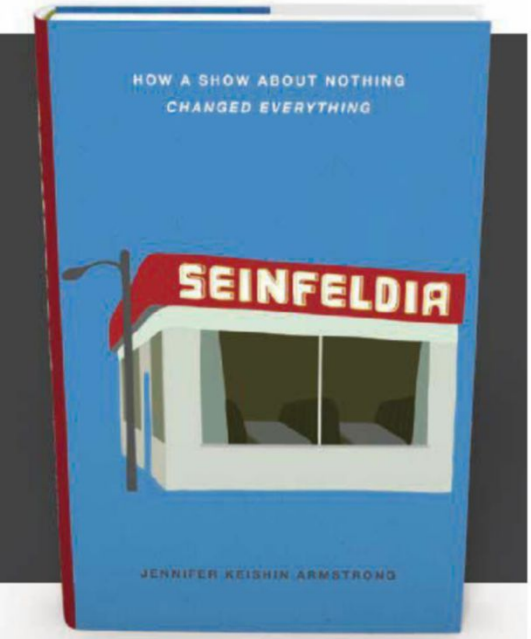
—Kenny Kramer, the real-life inspiration for *Seinfeld*'s Kramer



"This book is the ultimate score for any *Seinfeld* addict."

—FRED STOLLER, author of *My Seinfeld Year*

"Armstrong's intimate, breezy history is full of gossipy details, show trivia, and insights into how famous episodes came to be."

—*Kirkus Reviews*

Available in hardcover and ebook wherever books are sold.

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SUNDAY JULY 24 (*cont.*)

Series Debut

Ozzy & Jack's World Detour

10–11PM | HISTORY

Ozzy Osbourne's latest tour finds the rocker trading in sold-out stadiums for—wait for it—aliens, colonialism, and more weird stuff on a road-trip show with his son, Jack. "We go to the places you've always wanted to go, but you've always flown over," Jack tells EW. His favorite aspects of the show, however, were the smaller moments he got to spend with his dad. "We sat in a parking lot of a Home Depot in rural Virginia, eating Chick-fil-A as one of his songs came on, and it's probably one of the things that I'll remember for the rest of my life." —*Derek Lawrence*

MONDAY JULY 25

Rizzoli & Isles

9–10PM | TNT

This episode isn't just special because it's the 100th, or even because it lands in the middle of the show's final season: It's also star Angie Harmon's directorial debut. "I'm a very vocal and emotional director," she says of her stint behind the camera. However, tonight also finds her going behind bars (in the name of crime solving, of course). "We kind of think the case is one thing, and then we discover that it's something else," Harmon explains. "So Jane's gotta go undercover in a prison to get to the bottom of it." —*Breanne L. Heldman*

TUESDAY JULY 26

Series Debut

MADtv

9–10PM | THE CW

Get excited, '90s kids—*MADtv* is back. True to the revival playbook, the sketch comedy will work the nostalgia angle by having original stars join the new cast each week. Does that mean Ms. Swan or Stuart might reemerge? "It's characters that you loved," teases new regular Adam Ray (*The Heat*), who adds that the show will be "diverse, fresh, insane, and energetic." —*Nick Maslow*

WEDNESDAY JULY 27

Season Premiere

Sing It On

9–10PM | POP

Pitch Perfect meets *The Glee Project* on this reality series that centers on four college-level a cappella teams as they compete to win the International Championship of Collegiate A Cappella. The drama is laid on thick—after a member of S#arp Attitude (yup) joins a rival group, the Queen Bee declares, "It's aca-on now." But the musical numbers (including takes on Taylor Swift, Florence + the Machine, and Tears for Fears) are uplifting, impressive, and aca-worth fast-forwarding to. B– —*Caitlin Brody*

OZZY AND JACK'S WORLD DETOUR: HISTORY; RIZZOLI & ISLES: DOUG HYUN/TNT; MADTV: TOMMY GARCIA/THE CW; SING IT ON: AVI STEINHARDT/CBS

THU JULY 28

Hollywood Game Night

8–9PM | NBC

Jane Lynch hosts a "ladies night" with Julia Stiles, Raven-Symoné, Bellamy Young, and other women. Internet trolls are already saying it's the worst attack on men's rights since the new *Ghostbusters*.

Miniseries Debut

Jeff Ross Presents Roast Battle

10–11PM

COMEDY CENTRAL

The Roastmaster General presides over a four-night contest that he calls "*Fight Club* for comedians." Wait, so Jeff Ross has actually been Brad Pitt all along?

FRIDAY JULY 29

Series Debut

Last Chance U

STREAMING | NETFLIX

This docuseries follows the football team at East Mississippi Community College, a junior college that often picks up players who have burned out in Division I. The misfits not only have to prove their worth, they also have to live up to their coach's undefeated winning streak. That thrilling effort is matched by a *Friday Night Lights*-like dose of everyday human drama. And while your attention might lag during, say, a quiet classroom scene, the series still boasts great football action, surprising charm, and intriguing insight into the lower levels of America's football obsession. B *—Christian Holub*

SAT JULY 30

Killer Coach

8–10PM | LIFETIME

A high school athlete hoping to make the Olympics gets help from a world-renowned swim coach—but it turns out her teaching methods might be too extreme. I, for one, can't believe this movie isn't called *Death Stroke*.

Season Premiere

Boston EMS

10–11PM | ABC

The medical documentary returns to to shadow the city's skilled first-response team. Hopefully they'll notch more wins than the Red Sox have lately.

SUNDAY JULY 31

TROPHY LIFE

Teen Choice 2016

8–10PM | FOX

John Cena and Victoria Justice host the annual awards show that uses surfboards as trophies. (And *The Shallows* STILL wasn't nominated!)

Celebrity Family Feud

8–9PM | ABC

Five men from *The Bachelor* face off against a team of women from *The Bachelorette*. Meanwhile, when everyone's away, Chris Harrison will spend the day sliding around the empty *Bachelor* mansion in his socks and underwear, *Risky Business*-style.

Season Finale

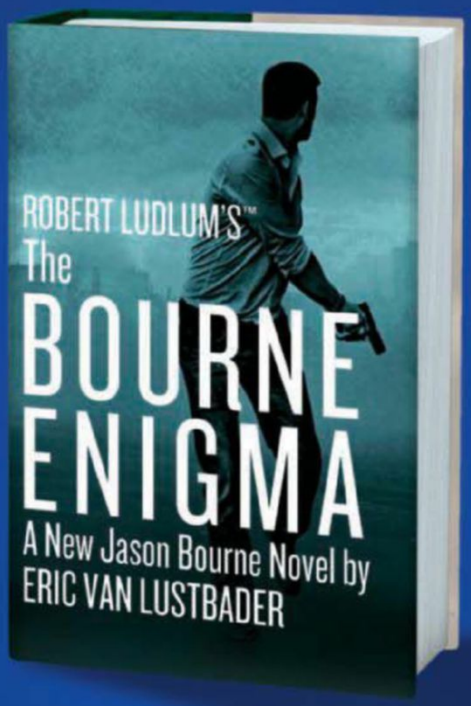
Preacher

9–10PM | AMC

A Texas minister and an Irish vampire walk into a bar... Tune in tonight to find out how the joke ends.

LAST CHANCE U: ALAN MARKFIELD/NETFLIX

JASON BOURNE IS BACK.



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Music

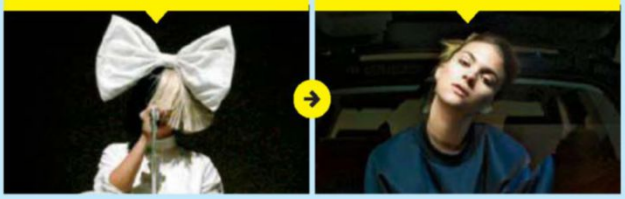
EDITED BY **TINA JORDAN** @EWTinaJordan

THE ULTIMATE SUMMER SINGLES SWAP

Are you already sick of your summer playlist? Trade in the season's hottest hits for fresher tracks from overlooked and under-the-radar acts.

BY NOLAN FEENEY

LOVE THIS? | **TRY THIS!**



SIA FEAT. SEAN PAUL
"Cheap Thrills"

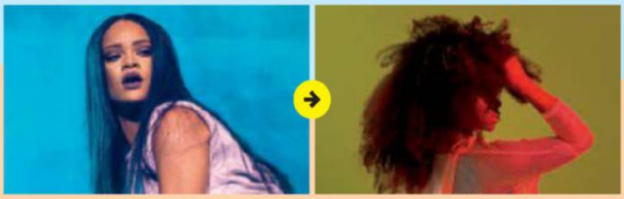
BIG WILD FEAT. TOVE STYRKE
"Aftergold"

No money? No problem—at least not for the enigmatic Sia and Swedish singer Styrke, who show they're no material girls over tropical beats.

TWENTY ONE PILOTS
"Ride"

PHANTOGRAM
"You Don't Get Me High Anymore"

Thanks to producer Ricky Reed, these two genre-bending duos take different but equally heady trips through hip-hop, synth-pop, reggae, and more.



RIHANNA
"Needed Me"

NAO
"Girlfriend"

Their views on commitment differ—RiRi is shaking off a clingy fling, Nao wants to be your lady—but their woozy R&B stylings both hypnotize.

THE 1975
"The Sound"

COIN
"Talk Too Much"

The 1975 frontman Matt Healy rocks the vocab of an SAT tutor, but alt-pop quartet COIN like to skip the chatter: "Put your lips on mine and shut me up."

SIA: GARY MILLER/GETTY IMAGES; STYRKE: HEDVIG JENNING; PHANTOGRAM: TIMOTHY SACCENTI; RIHANNA: MICHAEL CAMPANELLA/REDFERNS; THE 1975: ROGER DECKKER; COIN: ZACHARY GRAY

NOTEWORTHY

Shawn Mendes will release his second album, *Illuminate*, on Sept. 23. He tells EW: "I think people will be surprised by how edgy we get with the lyrics." • **The Pixies**' sixth studio LP, *Head Carrier*, will arrive on Sept. 30.

LOVE THIS? TRY THIS!

JAKE OWEN
"American Country Love Song"

MAREN MORRIS
"80s Mercedes"

Behind the wheels of a Ford and a Mercedes, these two craft windows-down anthems as slick as their rides. Update your road-trip playlists accordingly.

LOVE THIS? TRY THIS!

ZARA LARSSON & MNEK
"Never Forget You"

HANNA & ANDREA
"Always on My Mind"

Europe's pop wunderkinds share more than a knack for sparkling songs about rekindling lost love: Hanna (far right) is also Larsson's younger sister.

GRIMES
"California"

MAGGIE ROGERS
"Alaska"

The experimental pop artist and the Pharrell-approved newcomer find inspiration in geography as they show off their sunny, ethereal melodies.

NICK JONAS
"Champagne Problems"

MAJID JORDAN
"Make It Work"

Romance is hard—just ask the former boy-bander and these Drake collaborators, who put relationship drama on ice with their electro-R&B grooves.

FLO RIDA
"My House"

PJ
"Gangster"

One's an EDM-rap titan, the other's a rising soul singer, yet their tunes possess similar foot-tapping potential thanks to lurching piano loops.

DNCE
"Cake by the Ocean"

FITZ AND THE TANTRUMS
"HandClap"

Put your palms together for sugary hooks and throbbing bass lines that will buoy you all the way to the beach.

JUSTIN BIEBER
"Love Yourself"

ISAC ELLIOT
"What About Me"

Don't be fooled by the delicate guitars—these crooners don't mince words when it comes to their name-dropping, narcissistic exes.

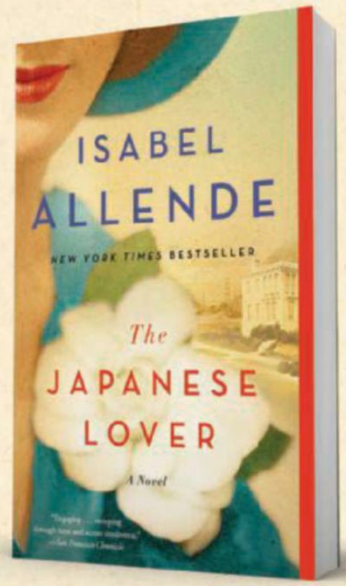
THE CHAINSMOKERS FEAT. DAYA "Don't Let Me Down"

FRENSHIP FEAT. EMILY WARREN "Capsize"

After co-writing "Don't Let Me Down," songwriter Warren brought her dance-music Midas touch to this up-and-coming Los Angeles duo.

LARSSON: DENNIS LEUPOLD; GRIMES: MICHAEL AVEDON; ROGERS: KATIA TEMKIN; JONAS: YU TSAI; MAJID JORDAN: NATHAN LEGIEHN; FLO RIDA: ALEX KIRZHNER; PJ: JORY CORDY; DNCE: STEVEN TAYLOR; FITZ AND THE TANTRUMS: JOSEPH CULTICE; BIEBER: KEVIN WINTER/GETTY IMAGES; ELLIOT: CATIE LAFFOON; THE CHAINSMOKERS: FRANK APOLLONIO

A "magical and sweeping tale"* perfect for the summer.



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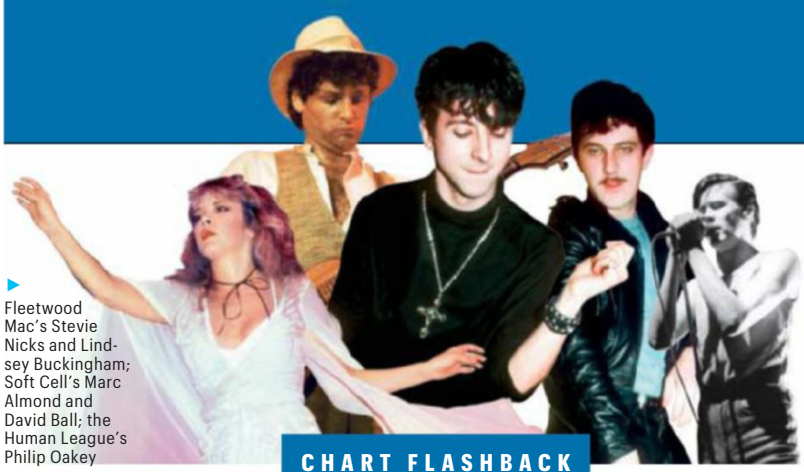

Fleetwood Mac's Stevie Nicks and Lindsey Buckingham; Soft Cell's Marc Almond and David Ball; the Human League's Philip Oakey

CHART FLASHBACK

1982

Thirty-four years ago this week, the Hot 100 was overrun by felines and Fleetwoods, Soft Cells and Speedwagons. We revisit and regrade the top 10 songs. BY LEAH GREENBLATT

1 *SURVIVOR*
"Eye of the Tiger"
Behold the glorious tiger, top cat of rock fans and Rocky Balboas everywhere: This fearsome beast has no natural predators in the wild, though it did find one on the pop charts—Olivia Newton-John, whose "Physical" would become the lone song to best it all year long. **A**

2 *TOTO*
"Rosanna"
Rosanna Arquette was the rumored muse, and the blonde in the video was Cynthia Rhodes, a.k.a. Penny from *Dirty Dancing*, a.k.a. the future Mrs. Richard Marx. And...Yahtzee! This entry is now officially more '80s than a Teddy Ruxpin scrunchie. **A–**

3 *JOHN COUGAR*
"Hurts So Good"
He was still about a year away from adding back the Mellencamp; in the meantime, the Cougs didn't mind mixing up his bar rock with a little light lyrical masochism. **B**

4 *FLEETWOOD MAC*
"Hold Me"
The band had basically imploded like a death star made of infidelity and cocaine at this point, but "Hold Me" is still a yacht-pop dream. **A**

5 *DAZZ BAND*
"Let It Whip"
You want it new-wave whipped? Devo's got you covered. Disco-funk whipped? Dazz is on the case! Just don't ask either one what "it" is. **A–**

6 *THE STEVE MILLER BAND*
"Abracadabra"
You can't blame Steve for maxing out a rhyme scheme, but "Abra, abracadabra/I wanna reach out and grab ya" sounds like it should be coming from a blacked-out van, not your shop teacher's radio. **B–**

7 *THE HUMAN LEAGUE*
"Don't You Want Me"
This is almost exactly the spot where sleek, ambisexual synth-pop started its stealth takeover of the Hot 100—the anti-"Abracadabra," if you will, and right on time. **A–**

8 *SOFT CELL*
"Tainted Love"
How to build a perfect song: (1) Take Gloria Jones' already flawless 1964 original; (2) Add whomping keyboards, eyeliner, and frontman Marc Almond, giving you all a boy could give you; (3) Repeat till your neighbors call the landlord. **A+**

9 *THE MOTELS*
"Only the Lonely"
Not a cover of the same-named Roy Orbison song, but just as good for lying on the kitchen floor crying and nursing a flat liter of Tab. **B+**

10 *REO SPEEDWAGON*
"Keep the Fire Burnin'"
Some flames are meant to reach the sky, to scorch our souls and burn eternal. And some are a charred hairball in a bucket, lingering until you finally find the extinguisher. Sorry, REO. **D**

SOURCE: *JOEL WHITBURN PRESENTS THE BILLBOARD® HOT 100® CHARTS—THE EIGHTIES*

NICKS: EBET ROBERTS/REDFERNS; SOFT CELL: WARING ABBOTT/GETTY IMAGES (2); BUCKINGHAM: LENNOX McLENDON/AP; OAKEY: PETER NOBLE/REDFERNS/GETTY IMAGES

Steven Tyler

TITLE We're All Somebody From Somewhere

LABEL Dot Records | **GENRE** Country

REVIEW BY
Leah Greenblatt *@Leahbats*

"GOING COUNTRY" can be tricky business for a mainstream star, the kind of move typically pegged as musical carpetbagging at best—a game for silly tourists who try on twang like it's a ten-gallon hat at the Nashville airport gift shop—or at worst pure opportunism. So it's a neat surprise that Steven Tyler's swerve into the genre comes off as organic as it does, less like a borrowed costume than a slide into something comfortably worn.

It helps that he doesn't OD on the banjo-and-moonshine signifiers, and that his unmistakable voice, all sandpaper and weather, already sounds made for songs like these. There are achy, bittersweet ballads ("My Own Worst Enemy," "It Ain't Easy"), roadhouse rambles ("The Good, the Bad, the Ugly & Me," "Sweet Louisiana"), and one blues-rock stomper, "Hold On (Won't Let Go)," whose spirit animal is clearly the Black Keys. Covers of "Piece of My Heart" and Aerosmith's own "Janie's Got a Gun" feel more fond than fundamental, but as a sonic experiment *Somebody* suits this Boston boy: He's not trespassing, just taking a Southern detour. **B+**

Celine Dion Will Go On

The Vegas diva, who warms up for a Canadian tour with a *TODAY* show concert on July 22, fills EW in on new music. **BY NOLAN FEENEY**

Your husband and longtime manager, René Angélil, passed away in January. How are you doing?
I'm more than holding up. My children, my family, my fans night after night—it's not just one thing that's helping me. My children adapted themselves so well, so that helps me as a mom to cope with that tremendous loss. But I feel that he is inside of us, helping us, [saying] "Go for it! I'm here, the kids are safe, have your passion, have a good time."

What has the support from fans been like?
Every day I go out and there are hundreds of people giving me paintings of him, letters for me, books to soothe me, products for me to take time for myself, candies for the kids. It's like, "Wow, this is beyond music." This is a relationship that I've been having with my fans for more than 30 years.

You're working on a French-language album, due later this year, as well as an English-language album. Can you tease your collaborators?
Nothing has been confirmed yet, but trust me, I hope that Sia and Ne-Yo and Bruno Mars and all the people that we love, oh my gosh, I hope they write for me. I can just give you a little hint: Pink wrote me a song that I'm freaking out about.

You just finished a string of European shows. How do those audiences compare to your Las Vegas residency crowds?
If you forget the words [in Paris], don't worry—they know the songs better than you do. They give you a show as well. In Vegas, it's a different environment. You're not in an arena, you're in a beautiful theater with velvet-coated seats. You want to have a night out, have a nice dinner, go shopping, buy a nice dress. I can't compare a pair of jeans to a nightgown, but I can't live without either.

Have the meanings of your biggest hits changed as you've been singing them for decades now ?
Who wants to sing the same song 6,000 times? No one! But I'm stuck with these songs in a good way. For one second through my mind it's like, "Oh gosh, not *that* song again." Then I look at the fans and forget that it's been 25 years. They make it like the first time every night. Don't you think I have a good problem?

The TODAY *show is teaming up with EW for a backstage pass to the "Citi Concert Series on* TODAY*" with exclusive Q&As in the magazine and on EW.com. Catch Dion on NBC July 22.*

DION: DAVID WOLFF-PATRICK/REDFERNS

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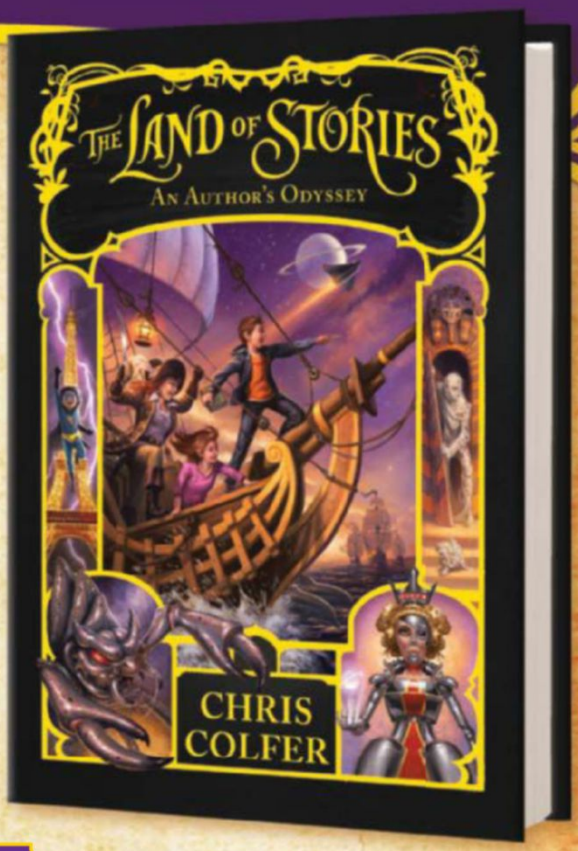

"There is more in Colfer's magic kingdoms than Disney has dreamt of."

—*USA Today*

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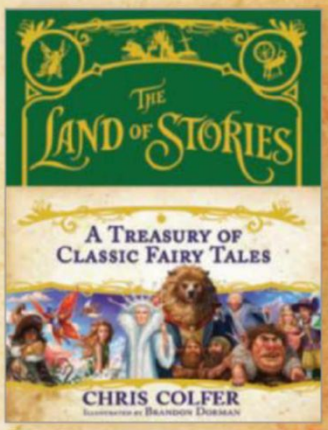

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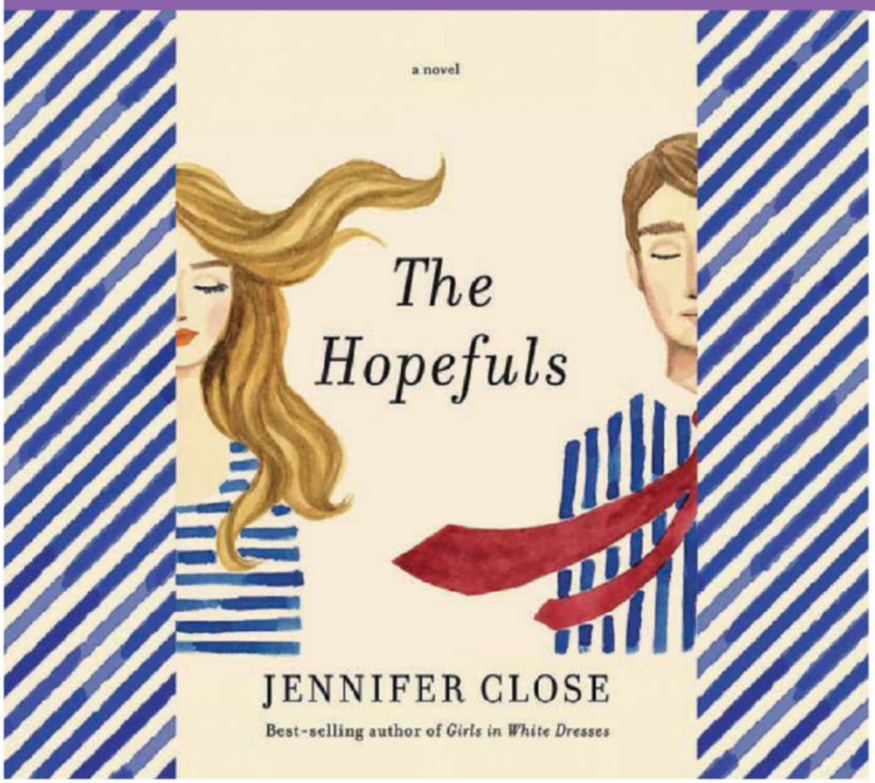
BETWEEN THE LINES

Unbreakable Kimmy Schmidt's **Ellie Kemper** sold an essay collection to Scribner. • **Donald Trump** has been spoofed again—he appears as the villain MODOK in Marvel's *Spider-Gwen Annual* #1.

EDITED BY **TINA JORDAN** @EWTinaJordan



The Hopefuls

BY	PAGES	GENRE	REVIEW BY
Jennifer Close	303	Novel	Isabella Biedenharn @*Isabella324*

CHARISMA IS A TRICKY THING. YOU EITHER HAVE IT or you don't—and Jimmy Dillon, the charming Texan at the center of Jennifer Close's quietly captivating novel *The Hopefuls*, absolutely has it: that golden magnetism that makes you wonder what it would be like just to stand next to him, if only for a second.

Beth Kelly, our narrator, gets plenty of chances to bask in Jimmy's light. She and her husband, Matt, who move from New York to D.C. (begrudgingly, on Beth's part) for Matt's political career, find fast friends in Jimmy and his Southern-belle wife, Ashleigh. Soon they too are carried upward on Jimmy's golden waves of luck, and the four D.C. transplants become inseparable, protecting one another from the more obnoxious aspects of life in the capital, like monumental egos who brag about their security clearance at parties. Beth starts to think D.C. might not be so bad.

But even during the foursome's honeymoon phase, there's a low thrum of dread pulsing beneath the dinners and fundraising galas. Troubling questions flicker through Beth's mind: Is Jimmy cheating on Ash, as rumors allege? Will Matt—who's always dreamed of running for office himself—ever catch up to Jimmy's success? And do Beth and Matt, who married years ago, young and quickly, really know each other? When the Kellys follow the Dillons to Texas so Matt can head up Jimmy's promising campaign for railroad commissioner, Jimmy's finesse throws Matt's shortcomings into sharper relief. "At the end of Jimmy's campaign, there were a million things I was unsure of, and just one thing that was definite: Matt's words sounded better when they came out of Jimmy's mouth," Beth says. "And it wasn't fair, it was just the way it was."

Close, whose husband worked on Obama's campaign, uses her knowledge of this world—and her experience as an outsider—expertly. Beth's conversational narration feels like peering into the diary of someone who shares your deepest insecurities: "I knew how awful I was being," she says. "Maybe I just wanted things to stay the same for a little while longer. But mostly, I think, sometimes it's just really hard to be happy for other people." **A–** E C A

MEMORABLE LINE "It was amazing how people turned their bodies toward him as he walked into a room, how his smile made them feel warm."

Book a Killer Vacation

Do you find hotels a hassle? Tired of the TSA? Opt for a virtual getaway with some of the best literary sleuths in the world. These location-specific tales will transport you to an Arctic ice field, a Louisiana bayou, a Saudi Arabian desert, and beyond. **BY TINA JORDAN**

Iceland
ERLENDUR SVEINSSON
DEBUT JAR CITY

One of the pleasures of **Arnaldur Indriðason**'s series is watching the likable Erlendur mature from young traffic cop to seasoned detective. Also, who knew Reykjavík has a seedy underbelly?

Canadian Arctic
EDIE KIGLATUK
DEBUT WHITE HEAT

Kiglatuk—an Inuit hunter and guide—helms **M.J. McGrath**'s bleakly gorgeous thrillers, which are set on the vast expanses of ice wedged between Greenland and the North Pole.

Louisiana
DAVE ROBICHEAUX
DEBUT THE NEON RAIN

There's no series more beautifully written than **James Lee Burke**'s, which is about a troubled New Orleans homicide detective who becomes a small-town deputy sheriff.

Spain
PETRA DELICADO
DEBUT DEATH RITES

It isn't just the cases that are so fascinating in **Alicia Giménez Bartlett**'s hard-boiled police procedurals, it's the characters—especially Delicado, a quirky, cranky Barcelona cop.

Brazil
MARIO SILVA
DEBUT BLOOD OF THE WICKED

A federal police inspector fights corruption and crime in **Leighton Gage**'s books—dark, gritty affairs threaded with graphic Brazilian street violence. (The squeamish might want to skip these.)

Chile
CAYETANO BRULÉ
DEBUT THE NERUDA CASE

Roberto Ampuero's cerebral mysteries star a wine-loving, poetry-spouting private eye who—in his very first case—comes to the aid of Pablo Neruda.

Botswana
PRECIOUS RAMOTSWE
DEBUT THE NO. 1 LADIES' DETECTIVE AGENCY

If you're looking for novels with an unforgettable private eye and a truly vivid sense of place, try this series from **Alexander McCall Smith**.

ILLUSTRATIONS BY **KAGAN McLEOD**

Sweden
ERICA FALCK
DEBUT THE ICE PRINCESS

Her husband may be a police officer, but it's Erica—a best-selling author—who's the better sleuth in this brainy series by **Camilla Läckberg**, set in a picturesque Swedish seaside town.

United Kingdom
FIN MACLEOD
DEBUT THE BLACKHOUSE

An Edinburgh cop heads home to the remote, windswept Outer Hebrides in **Peter May**'s atmospheric Lewis trilogy, which is so popular in England that tourists now flock to the islands.

Slovakia
JANA MATINOVA
DEBUT SIREN OF THE WATERS

Michael Genelin's books, suffused with the legacy of the Communist era, have a distinctly Eastern European feel. Matinova, a Bratislava cop, is unforgettable—roguish, razor-sharp, and kind.

Turkey
ÇETIN İKMEN
DEBUT BELSHAZZAR'S DAUGHTER

The story lines crackle in this series, which is rich in Turkish lore and lingo, but **Barbara Nadel** likes to linger on the inner lives of her characters—especially İkmen, a chain-smoking cop and father of eight.

Laos
DR. SIRI PAIBOUN
DEBUT THE CORONER'S LUNCH

Set in the 1970s after the Communist takeover of Laos, **Colin Cotterill**'s mysteries—packed with colorful detail about the country's history, culture, and religion—star an elderly physician-turned-coroner.

Kenya
ISHMAEL & ODHIAMBO
DEBUT NAIROBI HEAT

Kenyan history and politics pulse through the pages of **Mukoma Wa Ngugi**'s violence-laced thrillers, told through the adventures of an African-American expatriate and a Nairobi cop.

India
VISH PURI
DEBUT THE CASE OF THE MISSING SERVANT

The fussy, potbellied private investigator at the heart of **Tarquin Hall**'s delightful Delhi-set series will remind you of old-fashioned detectives like Hercule Poirot and Sherlock Holmes.

Saudi Arabia
NAYIR SHARQI & KATYA HIJAZI
DEBUT FINDING NOUF

It's rare to discover mysteries so steeped in Islamic culture. These, by **Zoë Ferraris**, feature an unusual investigative pair: a forensic scientist and a Bedouin guide.

Australia
JACK IRISH
DEBUT BAD DEBTS

After his wife is killed by a disgruntled client, Irish—once a Melbourne criminal lawyer, now a horse-racing junkie and debt collector—turns to detective work in **Peter Temple**'s rough-and-tumble books.

3 QUESTIONS ABOUT

Esther the Wonder Pig

When a friend offered Steve Jenkins a micro-pig, he immediately said yes. But soon he and his partner, Derek, realized there was nothing micro about Esther—who ended up a 650-pound social-media star.

BY ISABELLA BIEDENHARN

1 >

You and Derek also had a third roommate. How did she react?
She was such a trouper, totally an innocent bystander in the whole thing. She said a few times that she'd come home, see me scurrying around [cleaning one of Esther's messes], then just turn around, close the door, and go over to a friend's house for a while. [*Laughs*]

2 >

I didn't realize pigs were so smart. When are you impressed by her intellect?
Dogs are so clever. Nine times out of 10 you tell a dog to sit, they just sit. But pigs will weigh the options! They'll turn around, they'll look, they'll be like, "Eh, it's wet. I don't know if I'm feelin' it...." They're really thoughtful about what they do.

3 >

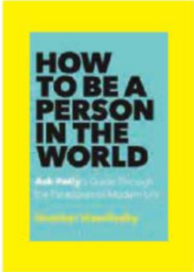
Esther has inspired many fans to go vegan. Has she helped others become more tolerant because she has two dads?
We got the most amazing message a few weeks ago from a lady who said, "Thank you for teaching my 4-year-old son that it's okay to have two dads." Esther just connects with people on an emotional level. We call it the Esther Effect.

QUICK TAKES

Here Comes the Sun

NICOLE DENNIS-BENN
Novel

The blazing sun is one sure thing in the Jamaica of Dennis-Benn's harshly beautiful debut, but it bears down differently on the local shantytowns than it does on the privileged guests of Montego Bay's airy, immaculate resorts. Hotel employee Margot, who straddles that disparity every day, is determined to pull herself and her teenage sister, Thandi, across the almost impossible divide, whether that means trading her body, her integrity, or even her own chance at real happiness. In saturated paragraphs and rich patois, *Sun* lays out the stark realities of an island whose entire economy relies on natural beauty, cheap labor, and limited resources—and explores what it means to live in a place where, as one character says, "nobody love a black girl. Not even harself." **A–** —*Leah Greenblatt* E C A



How to Be a Person in the World

HEATHER HAVRILESKY
Nonfiction

Havrilesky, a longtime Salon TV critic–turned–advice columnist, has found a devoted online audience for her Ask Polly alter ego's talky, intimate treatises—or as she calls them, "my awkward, angry, uplifting, uncertain, joyful, clumsy words (half of which are still 'f---')." *How to Be a Person* brings together unpublished bits and greatest hits that showcase her gifts as a writer. At her best, she is part Buddha and part Amy Schumer: wise, whip-smart, and profanely funny. Less dynamic, though, are Polly's askers; overwhelmingly young creative types living in large coastal cities and struggling with romantic self-doubt or career ennui, they mostly seem interested in How to Solve a First-World Problem. Someday, hopefully, Personhood will follow. **B+** —*Leah Greenblatt* E A

Underground Airlines

BEN H. WINTERS
Novel

Alternate histories can be a treacherous siren call within genre fiction. While a tantalizing "What if?" is enough to get readers in the door, without a crackling story, hypothetical worlds devolve into strings of bizarro, clever-clever factoids. And yet Winters' nightmarish mystery, set in a modern-day U.S. where the Civil War never happened, somehow manages to tap-dance around every potential pothole. In the foreground is Victor, a black off-the-books slave hunter, and his search for a missing PBL (Person Bound to Labor). Winters crafts his thriller so deftly that the ingenious details of his sideways timeline often fly under the radar, blurring the line between Victor's world and ours. **A–** —*Kevin P. Sullivan* E C A

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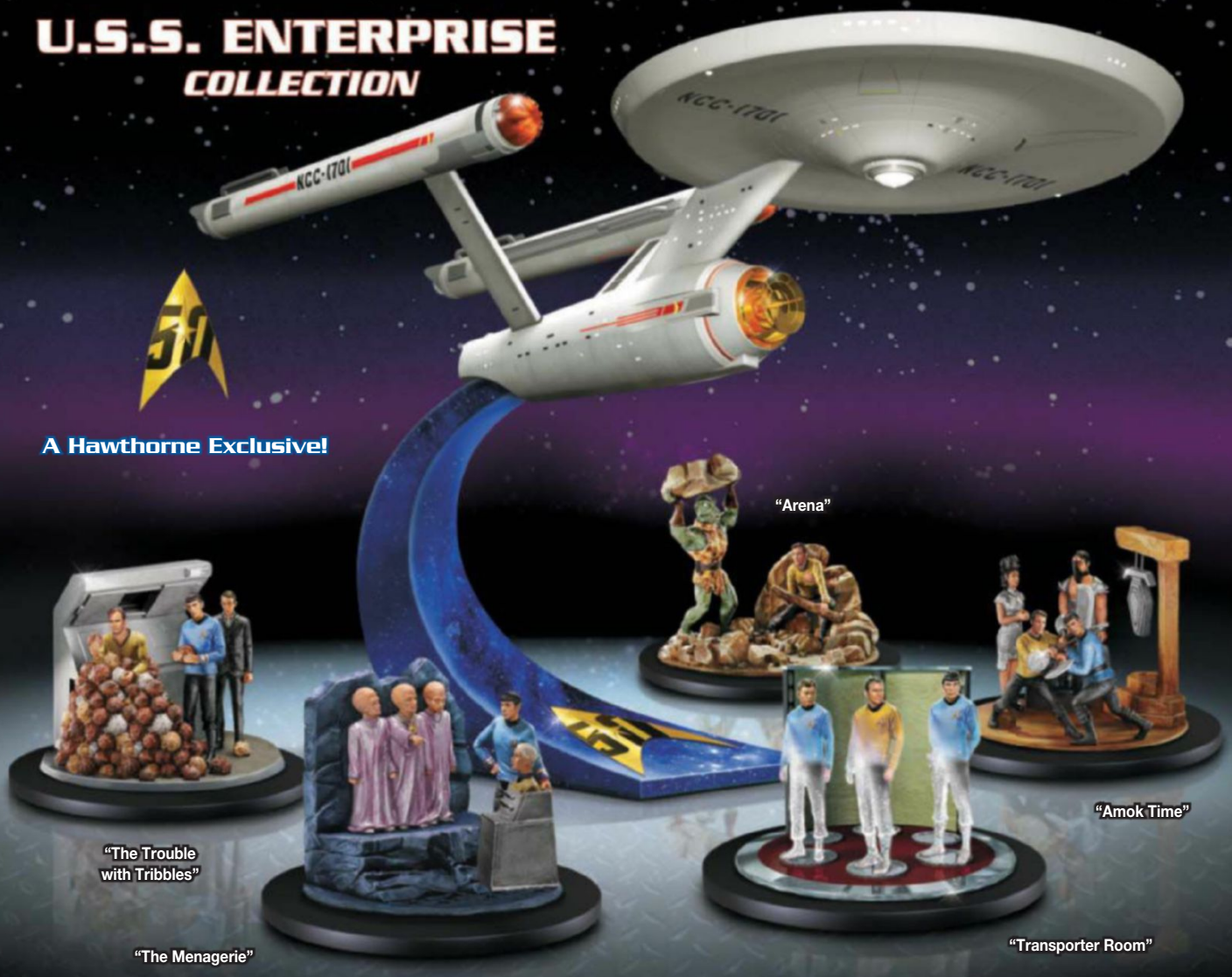

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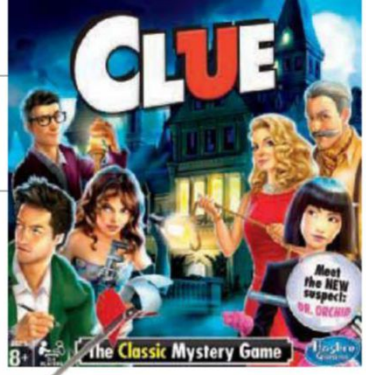
The Bullseye

BY **MARC SNETIKER** @MarcSnetiker

We give Charli's outfit a III out of XCX.

Two Trekkies arguing about a character's gay backstory? Yep, sounds like *Star Trek*.



Bad: Clue kills off Mrs. White. Worse: Clue adds Matthew Perry as Mr. Green?

For Spice Girls' 20th anniversary, Scary, Ginger, and Baby Spice reunite as "GEM," which is ironically perfect since Posh now looks like a hologram.

Pokémon GO: the geek version of a surprise Beyoncé album drop

The #Droughtlander has begun.

Celine Dion dons $885 *Titanic* hoodie, which costs more than actual passage on *Titanic*.

Lance Bass to host gay *Bachelor*-style show for Logo; contestants to be eliminated with brief but hurtful "Bye Bye Bye."

The Night Of: the scariest thing to happen to cabs since Uber

Marvel's new *Iron Man*: Fierce. Female. Finally.

U.S. judge says sharing Netflix passwords could be a federal crime. Unless it's to watch *Marco Polo*, in which case the network says, "Please."

TNT's *Animal Kingdom*, or 60 delirious minutes of Ellen Barkin saying everything the FCC will let her

Chris Pine's Pierce Brosnan cosplay is on point.

Ariana Grande joins *Hairspray Live!*, in extremely rare case of art imitating high pony.

Why, yes, the *Fifty Shades of Grey* sequel is shaping up nicely, thanks for asking.

Good news: We're halfway through the summer of sequels no one asked for.

Blanche Devereaux-my-God: St. Vincent remakes *Golden Girls* theme song.

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